

The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society



Internal registered letter of the second weight step sent from Perpignan to Châteaurenard on 1 February 1944 with a 5 francs stamp affixed to it in accordance with the rate of 5 January 1942 to 28 February 1945. This is Figure 6 of Edwin Voerman's article on the *Coiffes Régionales* of the 18th Century issue. (See pages 71-73)

Volume 69 ● Number 2
August 2019
Whole Number 290

**THE FRANCE & COLONIES
PHILATELIC SOCIETY OF GREAT BRITAIN**

Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Officers

President: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA (email: treasurer@fcps.org.uk).

General Secretary: D J Hogarth, 12 Moyness Park Drive, Blairgowrie PH10 6LX (email: secretary@fcps.org.uk).

The Society

The Society was founded in 1949 and is affiliated to the ABPS. Its affairs are managed by a Committee comprising President, Officers and Committee members, elected annually.

All inquiries about and applications for membership should be addressed to the General Secretary.

2018-19 Annual Subscription Rates

United Kingdom: £16.00, Europe: £23.00, Elsewhere: £27.00.

Overseas applicants may prefer to receive the Journal and other information in electronic format which would avoid expensive overseas postage. The reduced subscription rate would be £16.00

Treasurer: C J Hitchen, 36 Everton Road, Croydon CR0 6LA (email: treasurer@fcps.org.uk).

Sterling, Euro and US dollar bills are accepted but overseas cheques must be drawn in Sterling. The Society has a PayPal account for the use of overseas members, but please add 4% for bank charges, and email to treasurer@fcps.org.uk.

Bank transfers to HSBC account name France & Colonies Philatelic Society sort code 40 07 31 account n° 71019325.

The Journal

The Society's Journal is published in April, August and December.

It is printed and distributed by Joshua Horgan Print & Design, 246 Marston Road, Oxford OX3 0EL from the Editor's PDF copy.

The price is included in members' subscriptions. The contents are copyright.

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Text must be submitted in Word and images attached separately as jpegs scanned at 300dpi.

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The Society subscribes to two French philatelic magazines, and has circuits organised for those who wish to read them. For further details contact the circuit organiser:

R N Broadhurst, 47 Bolton Gardens, Teddington TW11 9AX (email: stock@fcps.org.uk; tel. 020 8977 9665).

Group Convenors

London Group: C J Hitchen

Northern Group: S R Ellis

Wessex Group: C French

Publications Stockist

J Parmenter, 23 Jeffreys Road, London SW4 6QU (email: publications@fcps.org.uk; tel. 0207 622 4851).

Website Manager

Jan Gane (email: jan_g@iinet.net.au)

* * *

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The Journal of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society

Journal Manager: Mick Bister, 7 The Slade, Wrestlingworth, Sandy SG19 2ES
Email: manager@fcps.org.uk
Editor-in-chief: Maurice Tyler, 56 Mortons Fork, Blue Bridge, Milton Keynes MK13 0LA
E-mail: editor@fcps.org.uk
Editorial Team: Peter Allan, Derek Atkins, Steve Ellis, John Hammonds, Chris Hitchen,
David Hogarth, Barry Knox, Michael Round, Colin Spong, Arlene Sullivan, Paul Watkins
Society Website: www.fcps.org.uk

Volume 69 Number 2

August 2019 ● Whole No 290

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SOCIETY NOTES

Editorial



I am delighted to report that the Society will shortly have a new Journal Editor. **Jan Gane** (left), who lives in Western Australia and who has been our Website Manager since 2016, has very kindly volunteered to take on the challenge. Regular users of the Society's website will be aware of the tremendous technical and visual

improvements that Jan has made to it over the past three years thereby giving the site much more appeal and making it more user friendly. From the beginning of next year she will be applying her IT and editorial skills to our flagship publication. A big thank you to you, Jan, on behalf of all the officers, the committee and the Society members.

There will be more details in the forthcoming December Journal about how the publication will operate but in the meantime please continue to submit your articles to me and not to Jan.

Thank you

Mick Bister

* * *

New Members

The Society is pleased to welcome new members: 1477 Terry Layman (Berkshire), 1478 Linda Lee (Australia) and 1479 Farley P Katz (USA), 1480 Carl Barna (USA).

* * *

Resignations

Members 1019 Prue Henderson, 1066 John P Garton, 1184 Colin Armstrong, 1236 Nicholas Pertwee, 1350 Ian Potterton, 1429 Eddie Rennison, 1447 Leonard J Yarndell and 1465 Brett Boudreau have advised us that, sadly, they will not be renewing their membership.

* * *

Members Deceased

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of members 500 Patrick Reeves, 867 Alan Wood, 1109 L F Rowe, 1182 Philip Beton, 1221 J Dickson, 1315 Ian Booth and 1462 Raymond Hart. We offer our condolences to their families.

* * *

Future Events

Please do not forget to support your regional groups. All members are welcome to attend whether you bring material to display or not.

The **London Group** will be meeting on Saturday 3 August from 11.00am to 4.00pm at the Calthorpe Arms, 252 Grays Inn Road, London WC1X 8JR when **Mick Bister** will be displaying 'Stamp Designers of the 1960s' in the morning. After lunch, members are invited to show their own material.

The next meeting will be on Saturday 5 October at the same time and venue when **Barbara Priddy** will give a display on 'West African Airmails'.

The **Northern Group** will be holding its next meeting on Saturday 21 September at Broom Methodist Church, 195 Broom Lane, Rotherham, S60 3NW from 10.30am to 4.30pm. The day will be devoted to members' displays on any topic and lunch will be taken at the local pub.

The **Wessex Group** will be holding its next meeting on Saturday 26 October at the Scout Hall, Lower Street, Harnham starting at 10.30am when **Trevor Buckell** will be showing his collection of 'French Air Mails'. After lunch, the afternoon will be devoted to members' displays. It would help if those planning to attend could let the convenor know by emailing colinkrfrench@gmail.com.

2020 meeting dates for your diary: 22 February, 18 July and 3 October.

* * *

Displays by Members

On 4 April 2019 members of the *Académie Royale de Philatélie de Belgique* visited the RPSL and the following presentations were made by two of our members:

Henk Slabbinck (President of the Belgian Academy): "Newfoundland's 'French Shore' (1713-1904)"

Guy Dutau: "The Egyptian Sphinx and Pyramid issue (1867-1871)"

At *Stockholmia 2019* (29 May-2 June 2019) the following presentations were made by 3 of our members:

Henk Slabbinck: "The French Presence in India"

Rainer von Scharpen: "The AIJP - Advantages and Offers for Authors and Philatelic Journalists"

Luca Lavagnino: "*Cursores* - Journal of the Italian Postal History Society" and "The Origin of Philatelic Literature in Europe - Italy"

* * *

Philatelic Honours

At *Stockholmia* on 31 May 2019 our member **Guy Dutau** was invited to sign the Roll of Distinguished Philatelists, and we offer him our heartiest congratulations.

* * *

OBITUARY



Alan J Wood FRPSL 1929 – 2019

Alan was born in Marlborough on 1 September 1929. The family, with elder brother Bryan, moved to Swindon Old Town where Alan attended Swindon High School and then a school in Cheltenham. He enjoyed playing sport including football, hockey, cricket, rugby and tennis. He also became a keen supporter of Swindon Town F.C.

National Service took up two years of his life. He was in the Army and based at Preston. One action he “fought in” with his troop was to shoot an escaped circus elephant!

After National Service, Alan joined the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell as a nuclear chemist. Whilst a member of Swindon Young Conservatives he met Sheila and they married. Alan was elected as a Conservative councillor for Swindon, taking an active interest in politics. Subsequently Alan and Sheila moved to Harwell where Neil and Ian were born. Alan became a school governor and chaired the Parish Council.

Most of us know Alan through philately. With Bryan in 1943 they helped found the Swindon P.S. Alan joined the Royal Philatelic Society, London in 1986 and in due course was made a Fellow (he always felt that there should be a comma after Society!). One of his highlights was giving a major display of France to the Royal. At one AGM he proposed that all members should wear name badges and this was adopted immediately. Alan was a Fellow of the Society of Postal Historians and President in 2007. Also for some years he was Chairman of the Association of British Philatelic Societies.

Alan was a long-standing member of the France & Colonies Philatelic Society contributing articles to the Journal and regularly attending the Philatelic Weekends at Leamington and Charlecote. His main interests lay in 19th century postal history, especially the period of the Siege of Paris, but he also collected and displayed WW1 patriotic postcards, military themed vignettes, essays and colour trials of the classical issues and Morocco Private Posts. He acted as auctioneer at the room auctions in London from 1992 to 2011 and invariably attempted to beat his previous record for the time to dispatch 500 lots! In 2004, with Peter Kelly, he started the Wessex Regional meetings in Salisbury and continued as co-convenor until 2018. In recognition of his contribution to the F&CPS Alan was awarded the Society’s ‘Long Service Award’ in March 2019.

On his retirement in the 90s Alan and Sheila moved to Salisbury and they became actively involved in local organisations. He joined the Salisbury P.S. and was well known for giving displays of “Countries I don’t collect”. At auctions he would often buy a lot to obtain a particular French item but the lot often contained material from other countries which he then formed into displays. In due course he was elected a Life Member.

Alan passed away peacefully at the Laverstock Care Home on 18 June 2019 after fighting a blood cancer. He will be missed by so many people and I will miss our many trips together to stamp meetings and football matches.

Our sympathy goes to his sons Neil, Ian and their families at this difficult time.

Jeremy Martin FRPSL

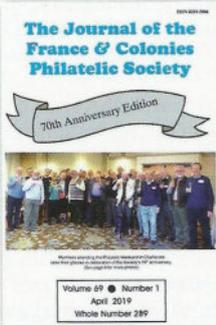
A Tribute to Alan Wood

The death of Alan, following that some years ago of his brother Bryan, has robbed us of the charm and good company of two great Wiltshire “moonrakers”, both considerable philatelists and postal historians. As Jeremy Martin has noted in his obituary, Alan was a man who was interested in all around him and it was difficult not to be caught up in his infectious enthusiasm. His common sense and dry sense of humour enlightened the many years served as our society’s auctioneer and in the 15 years or so that I spent working with him as co-convenors of the Wessex Group nothing was ever a problem. The depth of his collections was remarkable and he was always able to produce something special that we had not seen before. His easy going welcome made those meetings a reunion of friends gathered together to enjoy French philately at all levels in a companionable way. The number of his friends present at his funeral shows that he will be greatly missed.

Peter R A Kelly FRPSL

Publicity for the Journal

Chaque mois, nous vous donnons un aperçu du contenu des publications d'associations qui nous parviennent.



THE JOURNAL OF THE FRANCE & COLONIES PHILATELIC SOCIETY
Édition spéciale
du 70^e anniversaire – Avril 2019

Personne ne se souvient exactement quand la Société de Grande-Bretagne dédiée à la philatélie de la France et de ses colonies est née. Peut-être avant la Seconde Guerre mondiale... mais ses sociétaires connaissent son fondateur, Thomas South Mack, un marchand désireux de se créer une clientèle régulière à laquelle il vendrait ses timbres français. Pour animer cette petite communauté regroupée sous l'appellation de *France and Colonies Stamp Club*, il éditait une lettre d'information. À sa mort, en 1948, quelques membres ont repris la responsabilité de ce club mais sous la forme d'une société philatélique aux motivations plus sérieuses et centrée sur l'étude. En mai 1949, pour marquer ce changement de direction, le club a pris son nom actuel de *France and Colonies Philatelic Society of Great-Britain*. Ses soixante-dix ans ont été fêtés en mars dernier, à Stratford-upon-Avon comme le relate le bulletin d'association publié en avril. Ce numéro spécial anniversaire a été l'occasion d'une contribution écrite des deux plus anciens membres de cette Société : George Nash (n° 30) et Bill Mitchell (n° 50). À cette occasion, un fac-similé du tout premier numéro de la *France and Colonies philatelic Society*, édité en juin/juillet 1949 a été remis aux membres. Si ce bulletin évoque des sujets en lien avec une époque où la Mauritanie et le Dahomey, par exemple, étaient colonies françaises, il aborde également la philatélie en France aujourd'hui, avec une mise à jour sur les dernières nouveautés de Marianne l'Engagée.

Contact : C.-J. Hitchen – 36 Everton Road – Croydon CR0 6 LA – Grande-Bretagne.



Corrigenda

In the last Journal, N° 289 of April 2019, several errors were made that were not spotted before publication by the Editor or the Journal Manager in their proof-reading, and for this we apologise profusely.

On the inside front cover the subscription rates for membership of the Society should have changed several editions ago to show the reductions announced at the 2017 AGM. This has now been done. Fortunately our application and renewal forms have always indicated the correct amounts.

On page 6 the second paragraph is a nonsensical repetition of parts of two other paragraphs and should have been deleted.

On page 14 the caption to the illustration (Figure 2) should have read “1829” and not “1929”.

On page 35 the word “Beast” at the end of the page was accidentally misplaced and moved into solitary confinement at the top of page 37.

On page 46 the review of Peter Kelly’s book was attributed to Richard Broadhurst and not Michael Round. Richard Broadhurst’s review of the latest Y&T catalogue was omitted – but appears in this edition of the Journal instead (pages 103-104).

On page 50 the list of apologies from members unable to attend the AGM should have included Jan Gane.

Our sincere apologies to all!!

* * *

Exhibition Successes

Congratulations to the following members who gained successes at Phila-France 2019 held at Montpellier in June:

Guy Dutau: Traditional Philately, “*Égypte: Sphinx et Pyramide (1867-1875)*”, Gold

André Métayer: Postal History, “*L’utilisation des timbres au type Lauré dans le régime intérieur*”, Large Vermeil

* * *

Once again the Society’s Journal has been featured by the French philatelic magazine ‘*L’Écho de la Timbrologie*’ in the publication’s ‘*Bulletins de club*’ column. As you may remember, the December 2017 edition of our Journal was featured in the April 2018 edition of ‘*L’Écho*’ and in its May 2019 edition it was the turn of our special 70th anniversary edition to be featured. As you can see in the photo both the cover and the facsimile Newsletter were illustrated and comments highlighted the variety of topics covered focusing in particular on the contributions made by our longstanding members George Nash and Bill Mitchell. Thank you again to editor Sophie Bastide-Bernard and her team.

* * *

SOCIETY NOTES
Continued on page 63

Côte d'Ivoire SECAP meter stamps used at post offices since 1997

Marc Parren

Introduction

In this article I discuss the SECAP meter stamps which have been noticed to be used in post offices and were provided by the French company named SECAP. SECAP (*Société d'études et de constructions d'appareils de précision*) in existence since 1931 became part of the American Group Pitney Bowes in 2010.

The post office meter stamps I discuss here concern the SECAP type with prefix 'NE' and which often show slogans. These slogans are related to postal services offered such as renting post office boxes, selling packaging materials, Express Mail Service, insurances, money transfer etc. The term town mark (or town/date mark) is used here to identify the name of the post office. In this case the meter stamp

types have a Town Mark (TM) which is within a circle and includes the post office name and the date and name of the country below. The rectangular Franking is the portion of the meter stamp showing the name of the country at the top, four-figured value in francs (CFA), a curved POSTES and the Machine Number.

The descriptions are based on 'The International Postage Meter Stamp Catalog', written and published by Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh in 2005, and on its 2008 Supplement.¹

¹ See also http://en.wikibooks.org/wiki/International_Postage_Meter_Stamp_Catalog

SECAP post office meter stamps

The first meter stamp seen (Table 1 and Figures 1a and 1b) has a five line text reading 'BOITE POSTALE / Pour la sécurité / de votre courrier, / ayez une boîte postale / personnelle'. It is noted to have been in use at the Abidjan 01 post office.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 93898	Abidjan 01	Slogan	24.2.97	22.11.00
NE 94330	Abidjan 01	Slogan	16.12.98	7.2.06
NE 94330	Abidjan 01	None	-4.6.10	

Table 1

Meter stamps with the slogan 'BOITE POSTALE / Pour la sécurité / de votre courrier, / ayez une boîte postale / personnelle'



Figure 1a

Meter stamp with machine number NE 93898 and slogan

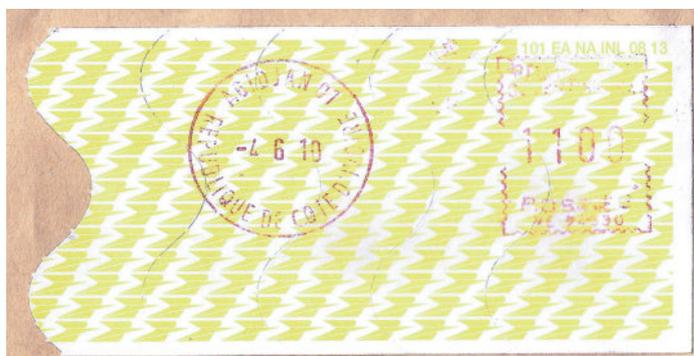


Figure 1b

Meter stamp with machine number NE 94330 and without slogan

The second meter stamp (Table 2 and Figures 2a and 2b) has a three line text reading ‘DISPRESS COTE D’IVOIRE / 1er Service de distribution / à domicile’. It is noted to have been in use at the Abidjan 04 and San Pedro post offices.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 93895	Abidjan 04	Slogan	24.2.97	11.7.97
NE 94327	San Pedro	Slogan	20.7.00	-9.8.00

Table 2

Meter stamps with the slogan ‘DISPRESS COTE D’IVOIRE / 1er Service de distribution / à domicile’



Figure 2a

Meter stamp with machine number NE 93895 and slogan



Figure 2b

Meter stamp with machine number NE 94327 and slogan

The third meter stamp (Table 3 and Figure 3) has a three line text reading ‘EMBALLAGES POSTAUX / Vos paquets et colis à faire et à défaire en un tour de main’. It is noted to have been in use at the Abidjan 07 post office.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 94336	Abidjan 07	Slogan	24.2.99	-3.5.00

Table 3

Meter stamps with the slogan ‘EMBALLAGES POSTAUX / Vos paquets et colis à faire et à défaire en un tour de main’



Figure 3

Meter stamp with machine number NE 94336 and slogan

The fourth meter stamp (Table 4 and Figures 4a and 4b) has a five line text reading ‘E.M.S. COTE D’IVOIRE / Meilleur rapport / qualité prix / des envois urgents / Internationaux’. It is noted to have been in use at the Abidjan 08 and Yamoussoukro post offices.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 93896	Abidjan 08	Slogan	3.3.97	-4.4.00
NE 94328	Yamoussoukro	Slogan	20.1.99	16.11.05

Table 4

Meter stamps with the slogan

‘E.M.S. COTE D’IVOIRE / Meilleur rapport / qualité prix / des envois urgents / Internationaux’



Figure 4a

Meter stamp with machine number NE 93896 and slogan



Figure 4b

Meter stamp with machine number NE 94328 and slogan

The fifth meter stamp (Table 5 and Figures 5a - 5c) has a five line text reading ‘C.N.E. / Avec un livret C.N.E. / garantisiez et fructifiez / vos économies sans impôts / La SIPE, si proche de vous’. It is noted to have been in use at the Abidjan 21 and Daloa post offices.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 93897	Abidjan 21	Slogan	28.2.97	
NE 93897	Abidjan 21	None	31.7.97	-1.8.97
NE 93897	Daloa	None	22.7.11	

Table 5

Meter stamps with the slogan ‘C.N.E. / Avec un livret C.N.E. / garantisiez et fructifiez / vos économies sans impôts / La SIPE, si proche de vous’



Figure 5a

Meter stamp with machine number NE 93897 and slogan

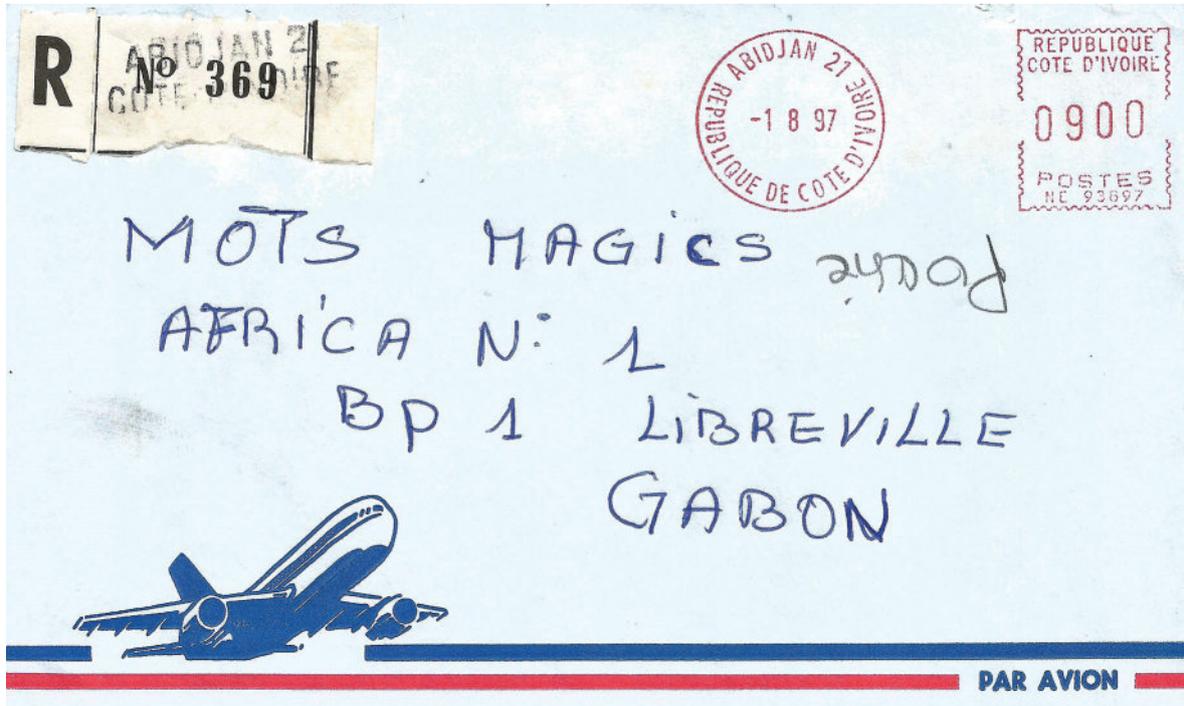


Figure 5b
Meter stamp with machine number NE 93897 and without slogan



Figure 5c
Meter stamp with machine number NE 93897 and without slogan

The sixth meter stamp (Table 6 and Figures 6a and 6b) has a four line text reading ‘SIPASSUR / L’Assurance Grande Famille / à moindre coût avec le SIPE, si proche de vous.’ It is noted to have been in use at the Bouaké 01 post office.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 93899	Bouaké 01	Slogan	4.1.00	27.4.01
NE 93899	Bouaké 01	None	11.10.00	

Table 6

Meter stamps with the slogan ‘SIPASSUR / L’Assurance Grande Famille / à moindre coût avec le SIPE, si proche de vous.’



Figure 6a
Meter stamp with machine number NE 93899 and with slogan



Figure 6b
Meter stamp with machine number NE 93899 and without slogan

The seventh meter stamp (Table 7 and Figure 7a and 7b) has a four line text reading ‘WESTERN - UNION / Le moyen le plus rapide / d’envoyer ou de recevoir de / l’argent de par le monde’. It is noted to have been in use at the Gagnoa post office.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Text	Earliest	Latest
NE 94333	Gagnoa	Slogan	-7.7.00	10.8.12

Table 7

Meter stamps with the slogan ‘WESTERN - UNION / Le moyen le plus rapide / d’envoyer ou de recevoir de / l’argent de par le monde’



Figure 7a
Early use of the meter stamp with machine number NE 94333 and with slogan



Figure 7b
Late use of the meter stamp with machine number NE 94333 and with slogan of which the frank and machine number are very worn

Discussion

What is striking is that these slogans have been used in just one or two post offices at a time instead of introducing the same slogan at all major post offices with meter franking machines for a specific period of time before introducing the next publicity slogan. The earliest introduction of these post office slogans dates back to February 1997. That is also the year that Joel Hawkins and Richard Stambaugh (see Footnote 1 on Page 57) record the introduction of the SECAP type with prefix 'NE' in Côte d'Ivoire.

Most of the meter stamps seen with slogans cease being used in the year 2000 or the beginning of 2001. Only the meter stamps in the post offices of Abidjan 01, Gagnoa and Yamoussoukro have been seen in use much later and as late as the year 2012. There is one case in which the machine number (NE 93897) moved post office and in this case from Abidjan 21 to Daloa. This machine number is seen with the slogan in February 1997 and six months later without.

Machine Number	Town Mark	Earliest	Latest
NE 93895	Abidjan 04	24.2.97	11.7.97
NE 93896	Abidjan 08	3.3.97	-4.4.00
NE 93897	Abidjan 21	28.2.97	-1.8.97
NE 93897	Daloa	22.7.11	
NE 93898	Abidjan 01	-9.12.97	-5.11.99
NE 93899	Bouaké 01	4.1.00	27.4.01
NE 94327	San Pedro	20.7.00	-9.8.00
NE 94328	Yamoussoukro	20.1.99	16.11.05
NE 94329			
NE 94330	Abidjan 01	16.12.98	-4.6.10
NE 94331			
NE 94332			
NE 94333	Gagnoa	-7.7.00	10.8.12
<i>NE 94334</i>	<i>Man</i>	<i>13.7.00</i>	
NE 94335			
NE 94336	Abidjan 07	24.2.99	-3.5.00
<i>NP 35529</i>	<i>Abidjan 06</i>	<i>30.12.02</i>	
NP 35530	Abidjan 10	-5.5.03	

Table 8

Overview of all known SECAP post office meter stamps in use with 'NE' prefix

There seems to exist a sequential order in the attributed machine numbers which leaves me to believe that there are missing numbers of post office meter stamps that I have not seen yet. I have added these numbers to **Table 8** and put the machine numbers in bold. Furthermore, the machine number NE 94334 I have seen in use in Man but without a slogan (**Figure 8a**). I have put it in both bold and italics. I suppose that with time we will find this one with slogan as well as no other meter stamp of this town has yet been seen.



Figure 8a

Meter stamp with machine number NE 94334 and without slogan used in Man

The same applies for two meter stamps I possess of Abidjan 06 (Figure 8b) and Abidjan 10 (Figure 8c) with the 'NP' prefix of which I suspect that they are post office meter franks as well. Only time will tell.



Figure 8b
Meter stamp with machine number NP 35529 and without slogan used in Abidjan 06



Figure 8c
Meter stamp with machine number NP 35530 and without slogan used in Abidjan 10

I would like to thank Messrs. Laurent Bonnefoy, Jean-Paul Fosse and Joël Leroux of the French meter stamp study group ACEMA for sharing data with me. The reporting of further such meter stamp examples would be most appreciated: please contact me at marcparren@hotmail.com. Thank you.

SOCIETY NOTES

Continued from page 56

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Appeal for articles

We are getting rather short of material so I would welcome contributions on any subject and of any length. It is essential that when Jan takes over as editor next year she has a full in-tray of material to choose from so please look through your collections straightaway and find something to share with your fellow members and collectors. Do not forget to submit the text in Word and send images, scanned at 300dpi, as separate jpeg attachments to me at manager@fcps.org.uk Thank you and I look forward to being inundated.

Mick Bister

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Stop Press

Steve Ellis has advised the committee that he wishes to step down as Auction Secretary in order to spend more time on other commitments.

We are indebted to him for all he has done and he will be sorely missed but he has found an able successor in our auditor David Parmley.

It has been arranged that David will take over from the beginning of 2020. David's contact details are on Page ii and you will find his photo on Page 99.

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French Mandates of Syria and Lebanon

Ashley Lawrence

In March 2018, Ashley closed the Annual Philatelic Weekend programme at Charlecote with a comprehensive display entitled 'French Mandates of Syria and Lebanon, 1923'. His display explained how the stamps of France which were overprinted during the period of the Mandates reflected the complex political situation as military occupation gave way to civilian government. This article, to be published in three parts, is an expansion of this display and incorporates a detailed account of the historical events in the region the full understanding of which is essential for the appreciation of the subsequent postal issues.

Part 1: French Post Offices in the Turkish Ottoman Empire and the Great War

France had opened post offices in various cities of the Turkish Empire from 1779 onwards. France was one of nine countries that had negotiated "Capitulations" with the Sublime Porte, the Ottoman government: these were extra-territorial rights to run postal services in exchange for trade opportunities. The French office in Constantinople (whose name was officially changed to Istanbul in 1926) had been opened in 1812. Similar offices had been opened in Constantinople and elsewhere by Austria, Britain, Egypt, Germany, Greece, Italy, Poland and Russia (see map and table on opposite page). The capitulations facilitated communication between business interests at home and agents throughout the Middle East. The system came to an end with the Treaty of Lausanne in 1923.

From 1857 until 1885, the French post offices used the stamps of France. Until 1876, numbered cancellations were used, the *Petits Chiffres* at first, then the *Grands Chiffres* from 1862 until 1876, then date stamps.

Below are examples of French stamps used at Trebizonde (now Trabzon) in Turkey (Figure 1). The French office in Trebizonde opened in November 1857 and closed (with all other offices) on 1 October 1914. Its cancellation was 4016

(PC) and 5100 (GC).

The French stamps were denominated in centimes and francs instead of the local piastres, so from 1885 some French stamps were surcharged in piastres, at the rate of 25 centimes = 1 piastre, or four piastres to the franc (Figure 2).

The foreign post offices were unpopular with the revolutionary Young Turks who overthrew Sultan Abdül Hamid II and gained power in 1908. Capitulations were abrogated, and the foreign post offices in the Levant all closed on 1 October 1914, two days after Turkey entered the War on the Axis side as an ally of Germany.

The Levant stamps

The Levant is the general name for countries along the eastern Mediterranean shores (the name comes from the French verb 'lever', to rise, as sunrise, meaning the east). It is a synonym for the Middle or Near East. The name Levant States was given to the French mandates of Syria and Lebanon after World War One, and the term is sometimes still used for those two nations, which became independent in 1946.



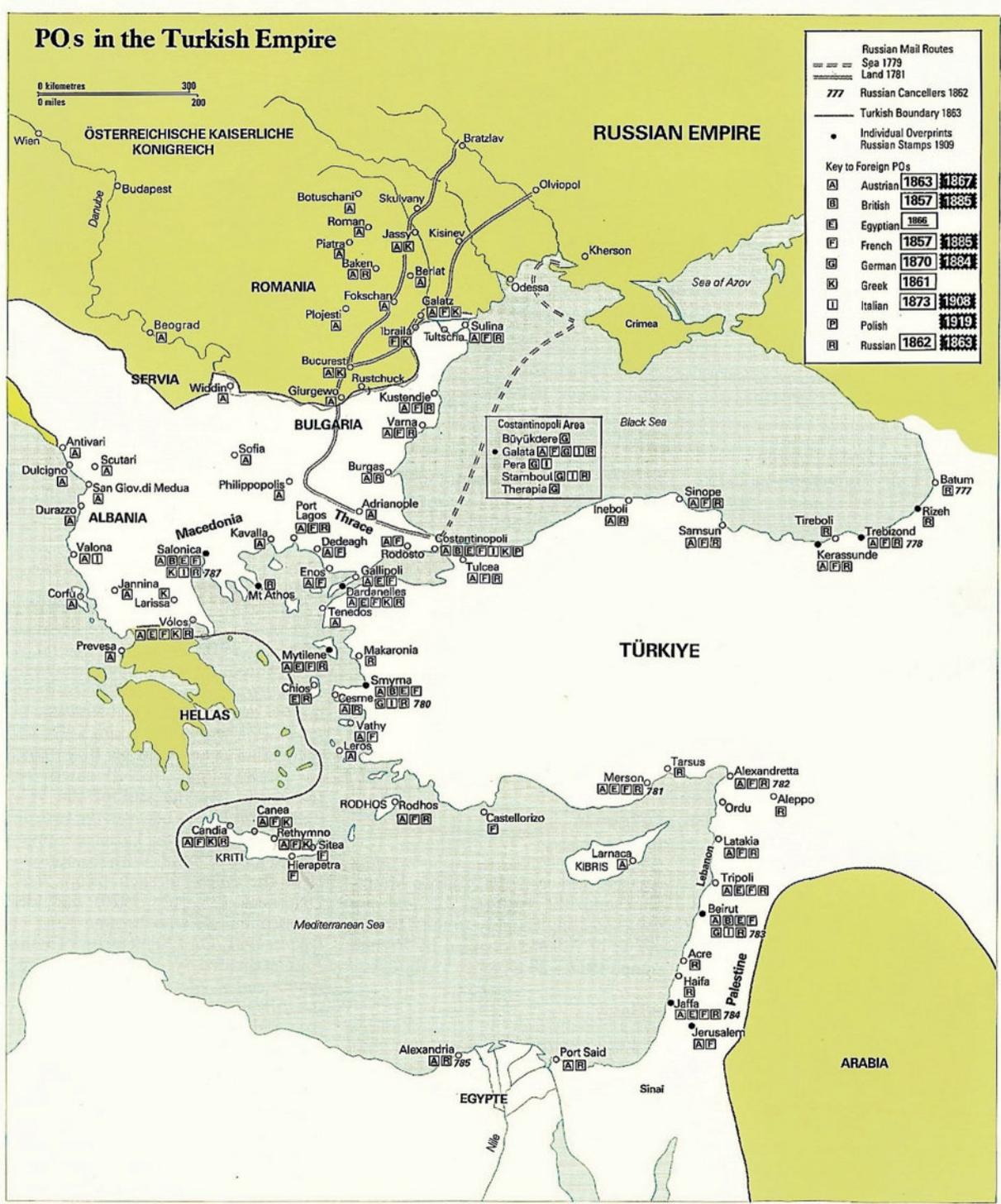
Figure 1
French stamps used in Trebizonde



Figure 2
French stamps overprinted in piastres issued in 1885 (left) and between 1856 and 1901 (right)



Figure 3a
Examples of French stamps inscribed 'Levant' issued between 1902 and 1920



Foreign Post Offices in the Turkish Empire

© 'The Stamp Atlas' by Stuart Rossiter & John Flower, published Macdonald & Co Limited, London, 1986

French Post Offices in the Ottoman Empire before the Great War					
	<i>Petits Chiffres</i>	<i>Gros Chiffres</i>		<i>Petits Chiffres</i>	<i>Gros Chiffres</i>
Alexandretta	3766	5079	Mersina	3770	5092
Beirut	3706	5082	Port Lagos	-	5271
Candia (now Iraklion)	-	-	Rhodes	3772	5094
Canea (Chania)	-	-	Rodosto	-	5086
Cavalle	-	5156	Salonica	4012	5095
Constantinople	3707	-	Sinope	4014	5097
Dedeagh	-	5155	Smyrna	3709	5098
Galata	-	5243	Sulina	4015	5099
Gallipoli	3767	5086	Trebizonde	4016	5100
Jaffa	3768	5089	Tripoli	3773	5101
Jerusalem	-	-	Tulcea	4017	5102
Kustendje (now Constanta)	-	5139	Varna	4018	5103
Latakia	3769	5091	Volos	4019	-

Beginning in 1902, *Type Blanc*, *Type Mouchon* and *Type Merson* were issued with the inscription 'LEVANT' (Figure 3a) both as centime/franc and with higher values surcharged in piastres. In 1905, 15c stamps in Beirut were surcharged with '1 Piastre / Beyrouth' (Figure 3b).



Figure 3b
Type Mouchon
with Beyrouth overprint

The Turkish Ottoman Empire

It is necessary to look back in history to see the gradual decline of the Turkish Ottoman Empire, the rise of the revolutionary Young Turk movement, and the discontent with the government and the resentment at foreign interventions which caused Turkey to declare war on the side of Germany and Austria in 1914, with disastrous consequences for today's world.

The postcard from the French Post Office in Constantinople (Figure 4) was addressed to Athens, in November 1903. It

was franked 5 centimes, the rate for a postcard with up to five words. Note that the illustration of the Sultan, seated at the back of the car, has been excised. This was no accident, but a deliberate act of protest which reflected the discontent felt by many Turks for their ruler.

Abdul Hamid II (1842-1918) was a despot who ruled the Ottoman Empire from the seclusion of the Yildiz Palace in Istanbul (Figure 5). His government relied upon a system of secret police and censorship. After a disastrous war with Russia in 1877 and humiliating terms for an armistice, the Sultan saw the French occupy Tunisia (1881) and the

British assume power in Egypt (1882) and he turned increasingly for support to Germany. Discontent with his rule and resentment against European intervention in the Balkans led to the military revolution of the Young Turks in 1908. Shortly thereafter, Abdul Hamid was deposed, and his brother was declared Sultan Mehmed V.



Figure 3c (above)
1908 Postcard to Scotland
with 5c *Type Blanc*
cancelled Jerusalem / Palestine



Figure 4
Postcard from the French Post Office in Constantinople, 1903



Figure 5
Abdul Hamid II



Figure 6
Mustafa Kemal

Among the malcontent Young Turks was the charismatic Mustafa Kemal (1881-1938) who, in 1933, took the name 'Atatürk' (Father of Turks). Born into a family of humble origin, Mustafa Kemal graduated from the Military Academy at Istanbul in 1902. He advanced in the military during the war, but supporting the idea of an independent Turkey he

resigned from the army in 1919 and was chosen president of a National Congress. In 1922 he proclaimed Turkey a republic and was elected its first president. The peace treaty of 1923 established Turkey's complete independence. In 1924 Mustafa Kemal abolished the caliphate and began his programme of sweeping reform in Turkish politics, law and culture (Figure 6).

For some four centuries, the Turkish Ottoman Empire, commonly called Turkey, with its capital Constantinople (now Istanbul) had been one of the most powerful states in Europe, as well as ruling the Middle East. By the end of the 16th century, the Empire included almost all of the Balkans, a large portion of Hungary in central Europe, and the bulk of the Middle East and North Africa, and had reached the peak of its power and wealth. After the reign of Süleyman the Magnificent (born 1494, ruled 1520-66) the Empire began to decline. It was unable to resist the encroachments of Austria and Russia which by the end of the 18th century pushed the Turks' frontiers in Europe back to the Danube River and seized its lands on the northern Black Sea coast. The central government lost much of its authority to local provincial rulers, and lost control of Egypt as well as much of the Balkans.

Described as "the sick man of Europe" by the Tsar of Russia at the time of the Crimean War, by 1914 it had been drastically weakened and circled by numerous predators hoping to finish it off.



Figure 7
Ottoman post issue cancelled Damascus 2 April 1914, shortly before the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand

On 28 June 1914 (Figure 7) the Austrian crown prince, Archduke Franz Ferdinand and his wife were assassinated by a Serb in the Bosnian city of Sarajevo, activating the

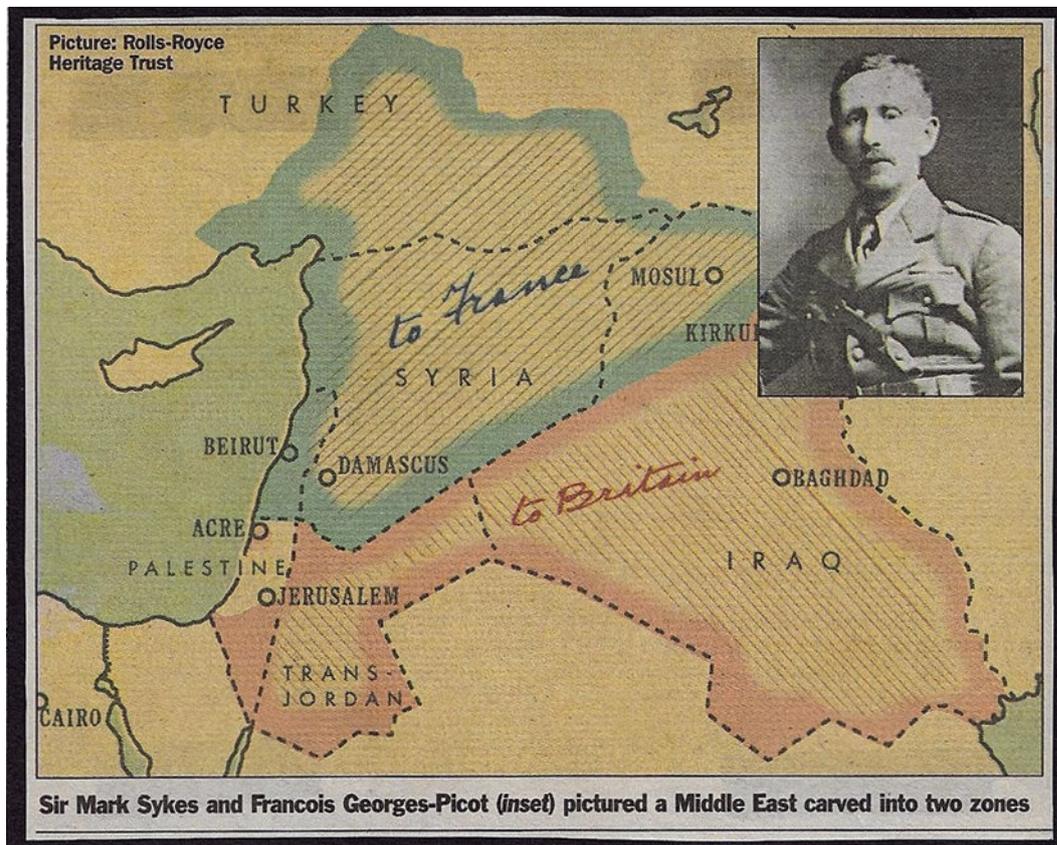


Figure 8
Map depicting François Georges-Picot and showing the spheres of influence of France and Britain

web of open and secret alliances that divided Europe into two belligerent blocks. The looming prospect of war raised the imminent threat of a Russian annexation of Istanbul, and the dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire among the Entente powers. Events moved swiftly. On 1 August, three days before declaring war on Germany, the British government requisitioned two dreadnoughts which had been commissioned by the Ottomans. Given that the ships had been paid for in full, to a great extent through public contributions, the British decision to requisition the ships was treated as a national humiliation in Turkey and ruled out the possibility of any accord between Britain and the Ottoman Empire. The very next day, 2 August 1914, the Ottomans concluded a secret treaty of alliance with Germany, and gave shelter to the German warships 'Goeben' and 'Breslau'. The 28 October saw the Ottoman bombardment of the Russian Black Sea ports and a declaration of war by the Triple Entente (France, Russia and Great Britain) against the Ottoman Empire. On 2 November 1914, Turkey declared war on the side of Germany and Austria. On 14 November the call for a holy war (jihad) was read out in public to a large crowd gathered outside the Mosque of Mehmed the Conqueror in the sultan's name; the crowd roared its support. With stalemate on the Western Front, and the Ottomans joining the Central Powers, the British, French and Russians hatched an audacious plan to destroy their weakest opponent and to carve out huge new empires for themselves.

The Sykes-Picot Agreement, May 1916

The Sykes-Picot Agreement was a secret understanding between the governments of the United Kingdom and

France, with the assent of Imperial Russia, defining their respective spheres of influence and control in Western Asia after the expected downfall of the Ottoman Empire during World War One. It effectively divided the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire outside the Arabian Peninsula (comprising Turkish-held Syria, Iraq, Lebanon and Palestine) into areas of future British and French control or influence. The terms were negotiated by the French and British politico-diplomats François Georges-Picot (1870-1951) and Sir Mark Sykes (1879-1919). The agreement was concluded on 16 May 1916 (Figure 8).



Figure 9
Painting of T E Lawrence
by Augustus John

The agreement conflicted with pledges given by Colonel T E Lawrence, 'Lawrence of Arabia' (Figure 9), on behalf of the British to the Hashemite leader Husayn ibn Ali, Sharif of Mecca. The Sharif was about to lead an Arab revolt in the Hejaz against the Ottoman rulers on the understanding that the Arabs would eventually receive a much more important share of the territory won. It was also at odds with the

Declaration made by the British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour in the letter written to Lord Rothschild on 2 November 1917, "the Balfour Declaration", in which the British Government expressed its sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations, and "*viewed with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, without prejudice to the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.*"

The Russian Tsarist government was a minor party to the Sykes-Picot agreement and when, following the Russian Revolution of October 1917, the Bolsheviks exposed the agreement, the British were embarrassed, the Arabs were dismayed, and the Turks were delighted.

The Ottoman Army

Before the outbreak of hostilities in November 1914, the Ottomans had a standing army of nearly 500,000 officers and men. In the course of the war, some 2.8 million Ottoman men would serve under arms, about 12 per cent of the total population of 23 million, though the Ottoman army never exceeded a maximum of 800,000 men at any one time. These figures were dwarfed by those of the other combatants: Germany had some 13.2 million men, Russia between 14 and 15.5 million men, France 8.4 million, and Britain over 5.4 million men for the Army and Royal Navy.

Nevertheless, the Ottoman army was an effective fighting force which played a significant role in the Great War. It was led by General Otto Liman von Sanders, who in 1913 was appointed director of a German military mission charged with reorganising the Turkish army. In March 1915, Liman von Sanders was appointed Commander in

chief of the Turkish Fifth Army, which was tasked with the defence of the Dardanelles. His troops fought back with great skill and determination against the Allied onslaught. The British and Dominion troops suffered heavy casualties as they landed at Suvla Bay and Anzac Cove. The naval assault had been poorly planned, coordination and leadership were lacking, and the results were congestion and confusion: the Allied forces on the beaches were overlooked and shelled mercilessly by the enemy from the high ground. To the constant shelling and the summer heat and the lack of medical and other supplies was added the scourge of dysentery. After months of bitter trench warfare in atrocious conditions, the Turkish army secured a victory over the British and Australian invasion forces at Gallipoli, forcing them into a humiliating evacuation in December 1915, thereby preventing the Allied seizure of Constantinople. Thereafter, von Sanders headed the Turkish armies in Syria and Palestine, holding up the British advance.

The Turkish forces also fared well in Mesopotamia (now Iraq) in the following year, defending Baghdad, and confronting and achieving victory over General Townshend's Anglo-Indian army. On 29 April 1916, after 143 days of siege, the garrison of 14,000 British and Indian soldiers, on the verge of starvation, capitulated and surrendered to the Turkish army at Kut al-Amara on the banks of the Tigris. However, despite these victories, the Turkish forces were ultimately defeated, clearing the way for the making of a new Middle East that has endured to the present, with consequences that still dominate our lives.

American Help

When the Allies' great offensive on the Somme in July 1916 failed to deliver a decisive breakthrough, it became clear that American help was necessary to defeat the Germans. The United States had been reluctant to enter the war. The newly-elected President Woodrow Wilson believed that the imperial ambitions of the belligerents were largely responsible for the war. He advocated a doctrine of 'self-determination'. As he expounded his high-minded philosophy in January 1917, "*No nation should seek to extend its polity over any other nation or people... every people should be left free to determine its own polity... the little along with the great and the powerful.*"

Wilson had hoped to remain neutral, but his hand was forced when, in March 1917, three American ships were sunk following the Kaiser's decision to pursue unrestricted submarine warfare. On 6 April 1917 the United States entered the First World War. The following day Woodrow Wilson launched an attack on the imperial foreign policies pursued by all the European powers, and made it clear that "*The United States would fight for the things which we have always carried nearest our hearts – for democracy, for the right of those who submit to authority to have a voice in their own governments, for the rights and liberties of small nations.*"

It was an ideal, embodied in President Wilson's 'Fourteen Points' formula for the Peace of the World, published in January 1918, which permeated the discussions and negotiations of the peace talks held by the victorious Allied leaders at Versailles, and the subsequent deliberations of the League of Nations. The interest shown by the other

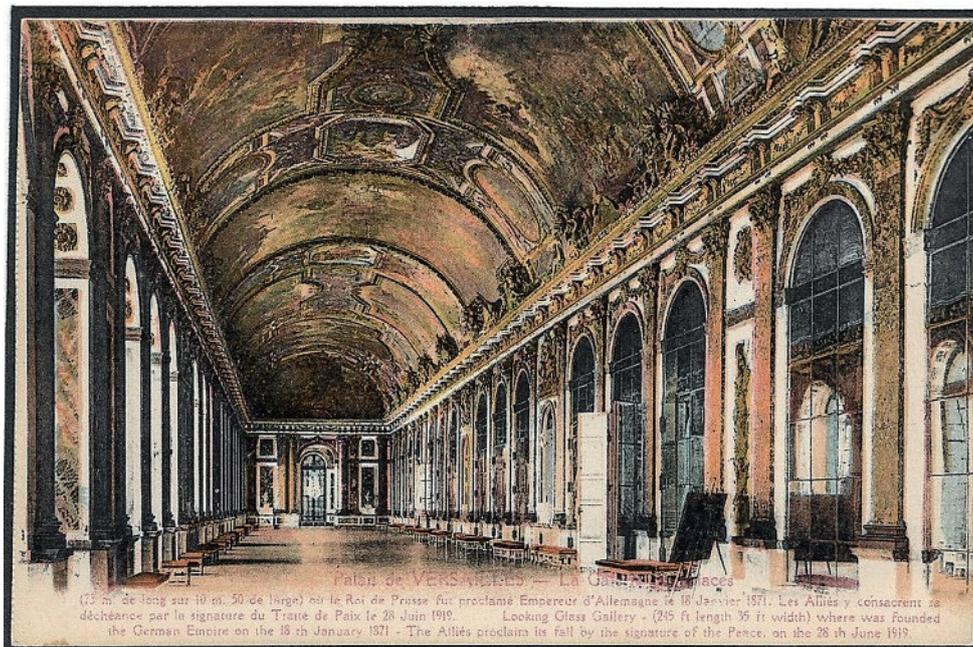
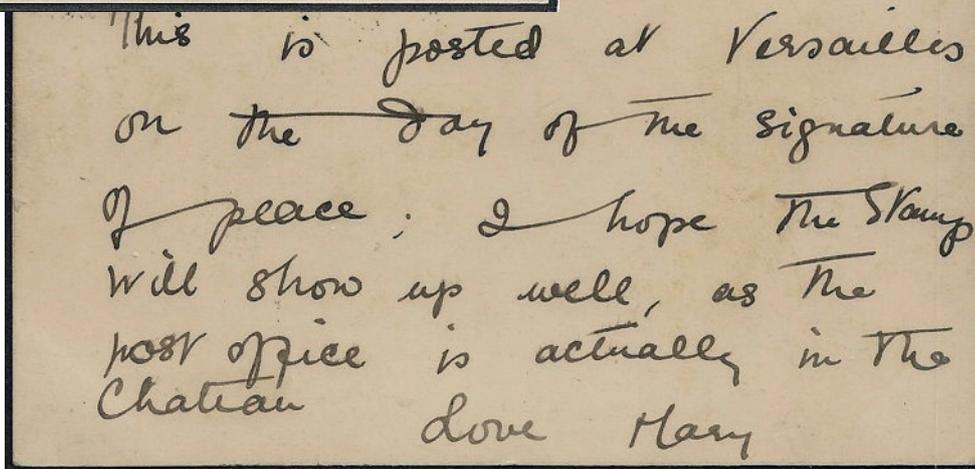


Figure 10
 Postcard from Versailles dated 28 June 1919 with the inscription "Looking Glass Gallery where was founded the German Empire on the 18th January 1871. The Allies proclaim its fall by the signature of the Peace on the 28th June 1919"



powers in peace proposals was less idealistic. The British and the French were protective of their Empires, and after four long years of suffering and sacrifice they would not willingly abandon them: 'self-determination' of subject peoples was a theme to be dampened down wherever it conflicted with their own ambitions. The Americans were not best pleased when the existence and terms of the Sykes-Picot agreement were disclosed.

The Versailles Peace Conference

At the end of the war, the victorious Allied powers met at Versailles to set the terms for peace with the defeated Central powers. Involving diplomats from thirty-two countries and nationalities, the major decisions were (1) the creation of the League of Nations, as well as the five peace treaties with the defeated states, (2) the awarding of German and Ottoman overseas possessions as mandates, chiefly to Britain and France, (3) reparations imposed on Germany and (4) the drawing of new national boundaries (sometimes with plebiscites) to better reflect ethnic boundaries.

The main result was the Treaty of Versailles with Germany, signed on 28 June 1919 (Figure 10), which laid the guilt for the war on "the aggression of Germany and her allies". This provision proved humiliating for Germany and set the stage for the expensive reparations Germany was intended to pay; it paid only a small portion before reparations ended in 1931.

The Conference began on 18 January 1919. This date was symbolic, as it was the anniversary of the proclamation of William I as German Emperor in 1871, in the Hall of Mirrors at the Palace of Versailles, shortly before the end of the Siege of Paris. Although the senior statesmen stopped working personally in June 1919, the Conference effectively came to an end on 21 January 1920 with the

inaugural General Assembly of the League of Nations, and the formal peace process did not really end until the signing of the Treaty of Lausanne in July 1923. Four major powers, France, Britain, Italy and the United States controlled the Conference: Japan only sent a former prime minister, and played a small role. The 'Big Four' were the Prime Minister of France Georges Clemenceau, the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom David Lloyd George, the President of the USA Woodrow Wilson, and the Prime Minister of Italy Vittorio Emanuele Orlando. They met together informally one hundred and forty-five times and made all the major decisions, which in turn were ratified by the other delegates in attendance.

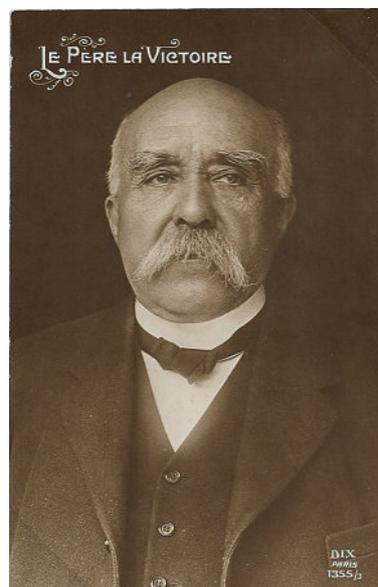


Figure 11 Georges Clemenceau, *Le Père la Victoire*

Maintenance of the British Empire's unity,

holdings and interests were an overarching concern for the British delegates to the Conference, but Britain had more specific goals – ensuring the security of France, removing the threat of the German High Seas fleet and supporting the League of Nations.

Lloyd George commented that he did “*not do badly*” at the peace conference, “*considering that I was seated between Jesus Christ and Napoleon.*” This was a reference to the very idealistic views of Woodrow Wilson on the one hand and the stark realism of Clemenceau (Figure 11), who was determined to see Germany punished.

Clemenceau controlled the French delegation, and his chief goal was to weaken Germany militarily, strategically and economically. Having personally witnessed two German attacks on French soil in the last forty years, he was adamant that Germany should not be permitted to attack France again. Under the terms of the Treaty of Versailles, Germany ceded Alsace and Lorraine to France.

Clemenceau also expressed scepticism and frustration with Woodrow Wilson’s ‘Fourteen Points’. “*Mr Wilson bores me with his fourteen points*” he complained. “*Why, God Almighty has only ten!*”

The Peace Treaties, 1919-23

As mentioned, the Treaty of Versailles of 28 June 1919 led to the setting up of the League of Nations. Under its other provisions, Germany ceded Alsace and Lorraine to France, Malmédy to Belgium, the larger part of West Prussia to Poland, Memel and the German colonies to the Allies. The Saar region was to be under international administration and Danzig was to become a free city. There were strict limitations on the strength of Germany’s future army and navy and provisions for the payment of heavy reparations.

The Treaties of St Germain on 10 September, Neuilly on 27 November 1919 and Trianon on 4 June 1920 registered the break-up of the Habsburg Empire, the independence of Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, Poland and Hungary and the territorial concessions and payments of reparations to be made by Austria, Bulgaria and Hungary.

Under the Treaty of Sèvres of 10 August 1920, the Sultan of Turkey renounced all claims to non-Turkish territory. He recognised the independence of the Hejaz, Yemen and Armenia.

Syria and Alexandretta (Hatay) were to become mandates of France, Palestine and Mesopotamia mandates of Great Britain, the Dodecanese and Rhodes were to go to Italy and the remaining Turkish islands to Greece.

The Straits of the Bosphorus and Dardanelles were to be internationalised, and the adjoining territory demilitarised. Smyrna and its hinterland were to be administered by Greece for five years, after which a plebiscite was to be held. Constantinople and Anatolia were to remain Turkish.

The Treaty of Sèvres was not recognised by Turkish nationalists, and after nationalist military successes it was replaced by the Treaty of Lausanne.

The Treaty of Lausanne of 24 July 1923 returned to Turkey Eastern Thrace, as far as the Maritza River and Karagach. It also returned to Turkey Imbros and Tenedos,

though Greece retained the rest of the Aegean Islands. Italy retained the Dodecanese and Great Britain Cyprus. The capitulations were abolished. Turkey accepted treaties to protect minorities. She paid no reparations. The Straits, and a zone on either bank, were demilitarised. Turkey and Greece agreed on a compulsory exchange of populations.

The League of Nations Mandates

The League of Nations decided the exact level of control by the Mandatory power over each mandate on an individual basis. However, in every case the Mandatory power was forbidden to construct fortifications or to raise an army within the territory of the mandate, and was required to present an annual report on the territory to the League of Nations.

The mandates were divided into three distinct groups based upon the level of development each population had achieved at that time. In what follows, the Mandatory power is shown in brackets. In this article we are concerned with Class A mandates, territories formerly controlled by the Ottoman Empire that were deemed to “*have reached a stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognized subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone. The wishes of these communities must be a principal consideration in the selection of the Mandatory.*”

There were three Class A mandates:

(1) Palestine (United Kingdom) from 29 September 1923 to 15 May 1948.

(2) Mesopotamia (United Kingdom), This was not enacted, and was replaced by the Anglo-Iraqi Treaty of October 1922. Iraq attained independence from Britain on 3 October 1932.

(3) Syria (France), 29 September 1923 to 24 October 1945. This mandate included Lebanon. Hatay (a former Ottoman Alexandretta sandjak) broke away from it on 2 September 1938 and became a French protectorate until it was ceded to the new Republic of Turkey on 29 June 1939. When Syria and Lebanon formally joined the United Nations on 24 October 1945 as independent states, the French Mandate was by that action terminated.

The second group of mandates, the Class B mandates, related to former German territories in west and central Africa. They comprised Ruanda-Urundi (Belgium), Tanganyika (United Kingdom), Kamerun (British Camerouns and French Cameroun), and Togoland (British and French Togoland).

The third group of mandates, Class C, included South West Africa and certain of the South Pacific Islands which were former German possessions. They comprised South West Africa (South Africa / United Kingdom), Territory of New Guinea (Australia / United Kingdom), Nauru (Australia together with United Kingdom and New Zealand), and Nanyo (Japan).

To follow

Part 2 : The Post-War Military Occupation

The *Coiffes Régionales* of the 18th Century issue

Edwin Voerman

The French production of stamps during WWII was quite similar to the production before the war in terms of volume. One beautiful stamp after another was issued as if everything was normal. Gradually the impact on the issuance policy of the Vichy regime, which was led by Marshall Pétain, increased. The result was that besides the issues with a fairly neutral character the stamps which were issued within the 'Secours National' programme became increasingly national-socialist in character.

One third of the eighteen engravers commissioned for the production of new stamps during WWII account for 60% of the whole production. Jules Piel (1882-1978), Charles Mazelin (1882-1968) and Pierre Gandon (1899-1990) were the most productive engravers with respectively sixteen, fourteen and thirteen stamps. After the war there were barely any consequences for the engravers who were working for the national-socialist regime of their country, in contrast to journalists and cartoonists, who were severely punished. In comparison to the period before 1940, the design of the war stamps was more contemporary, thanks to the debut of some talented engravers such as Henri Cortot, René Cottet, Paul Pierre Lemagny and Charles Mazelin, who were given the opportunity during this period¹.

In France, just as with the development in other countries under the Nazi regime, such as Belgium and the Netherlands, you could buy less and less for your money. The result was that there were speculative investments on a large scale, including stamps. The investments in stamps were not successful, because mint stamps and used stamps with an unreadable date stamp are of little value today.

1 *'Dessinateurs et graveurs de timbres-poste en France sous l'occupation: des artistes sous tutelle administrative'* by Grégory Aupiais. Les cahiers de la FNARH (Fédération nationale des associations de personnel des postes et télécommunications pour la recherche historique), 2003.

Let us compare the scarcity of (a) mint stamps or used stamps with an unreadable date stamp with (b) stamps used with a readable date stamp within the period in which they were issued and with (c) postally used items franked according to the right rate in the right period. If we were to value them on a scale of 1 to 10 (least scarce/valuable to most scarce/valuable) then, according to me, the first category (a) will end up at the bottom of the scale (1), category (b) at 3-4 and category (c) at 10. Even though you hardly encounter the latter, they do exist and, as an illustration of this, shown below is the entire surcharged series '*Coiffes Régionales du XVIII^{ème} Siècle*' which were issued on 27 December 1943; each cover shows a *seul sur lettre* franking, ie with a single stamp. There were one million sets of these stamps issued which attract a premium when found as single franking.

The '*Coiffes Régionales*' set has as its subject women's regional headdresses from the 18th century. Such a subject of course was just in the line with the rulers during WWII who had a strong national and especially traditional view on society. The six stamps were intended for the franking of very common categories of mail, such as postcards (Figures 1 and 4), printed matter and invoices (Figure 2), letters (Figures 3 and 5) and registered mail (Figure 6 on front cover). The nominal values represented a total amount of 14,70 francs, plus a surcharge of 25,30 francs for the *Secours National*, which was almost twice the nominal value. One single set cost 40 francs, that is why most buyers preferred to keep the stamps in their album and franked their mail with simple Pétain stamps without surcharge. If you compare the amount of 40 francs to the cost of the franking of a simple interior letter (1,50 francs) that is understandable. Of the pieces shown below the 60 centimes and the 2,40 francs are the hardest to find. I have seen but one example of the 2,40 francs used on a card.



Figure 1
Internal postcard with fewer than 5 words, sent from Narbonne to Toulouse on 19 January 1944 with a 60 centimes stamp affixed to it in accordance with the rate of 5 January 1942 to 28 February 1945



Figure 2
Invoice sent from Toulouse-Gare to Avranches with a 1,20 franc stamp affixed to it
in accordance with the rate of 5 January 1942 to 28 February 1945



Figure 3
Internal letter of the first weight step sent from Paris-Gare Saint-Lazare to Keremma near Treflez
with a 1,50 franc stamp affixed to it in accordance with the rate of 5 January 1942 to 28 February 1945



Figure 4

Foreign postcard with more than 5 words sent from Paris Boulevard Saint-Germain to Nijmegen with a 2,40 francs stamp affixed to it in accordance with the rate of 1 February 1942 to 31 January 1946.



Figure 5

Foreign letter of the first weight step sent from Paris Rue du Louvre to Bois d'Haine in Belgium with a 4 francs stamp affixed to it in accordance with the rate of 1 February 1942 to 31 January 1946.

New Postal Forgeries of Marianne Self-adhesive Stamps used on Nigerian-type Scam Letters

Farley Katz



Figure 1

In August of 2018, a letter was mailed from France to my home in San Antonio, Texas. The envelope had what appeared to be a 2015 *Marianne de la Jeunesse*¹ “Monde” stamp with data matrix (Scott N° 4945; Yvert & Tellier *autoadhésif* N° 1177²), being a *timbre à validité permanente* or permanent value issue for foreign postage worth 1,25€ when issued (Figure 1). I opened the envelope and found that it contained a Nigerian-type scam letter offering 40 per cent of an abandoned bank account with a balance of US\$17.7 million if I would be so kind as to assist in fraudulently claiming the funds. Like the typical Nigerian scam letters, some “facts” were added in an attempt to make the story seem real: the account belonged to “a citizen of your country that shares the same surname with you, who died along with his entire family on 13th May 2010 in a ghastly car accident in Porto Portugal.” The sender was “almost 110% sure that no one is aware of the existence of these funds.” Unlike the Nigerian letters, this one purported to originate from Barcelona and included telephone and fax numbers appropriately bearing the country code for Spain, 34. I put the envelope and letter aside as a curiosity.

In May of 2019, a second letter arrived from France, this time with what appeared to be a 2018 *Marianne l'engagée*

“Monde” stamp with data matrix (Scott N° 5492; Yvert & Tellier *autoadhésif* N° 1604) with a value when issued of 1,30€ for foreign postage (Figure 2). The letter enclosed was identical to the previous one, except that the Barcelona phone numbers had changed, the balance in the bank account had increased to US\$26.7 million – good thing I waited! – and the owner had suffered his fate at a different place and time – he “died along with his entire family on 9th October 2009 in a ghastly car accident in Paris France.”

Mailing scam letters by the thousands from abroad to the United States would result in a huge loss to the fraudsters if they had to pay 1,30€ (US\$1.47 today) to mail each letter. For this reason, all the Nigerian scam letters of the 1990s, before the scammers migrated to cost-free emails, were franked with crude colour photocopies of Nigerian postage stamps, seemingly made on broken down copy machines with “perforations” that look as if they had been chewed into the paper. Most also were sent in rough brown envelopes that must have been incredibly cheap (Figure 3).

At this point, I decided the envelopes and stamps deserved a closer look. When viewed through a microscope, both *Marianne* stamps revealed a dot-grid pattern with uniform flat colour, indicating they were printed by offset lithography using a half-tone screen. The genuine stamps which they copied were printed by recess engraving or intaglio (Figures 4 and 5). The stamps on my covers were postal forgeries.

1 Also known as the *Marianne de Cappia et Kawena* issue.

2 Scott lists a January 1, 2016, issue date whereas Yvert & Tellier gives 2015.



Figure 2

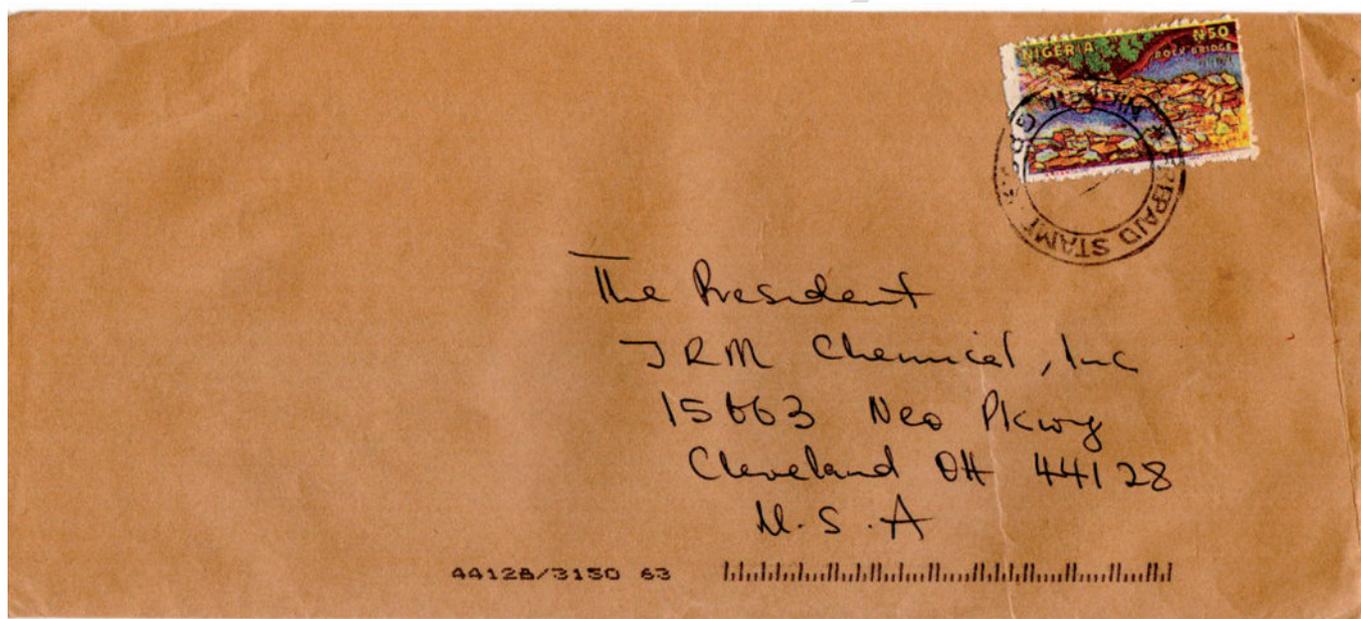


Figure 3
Forgery of Nigerian issue with enlargement



Figure 4
Marianne de la Jeunesse
genuine (top) and forgery (bottom)



Figure 5
Marianne l'engagée
genuine (top) and forgery (bottom)

My forged *Marianne* stamps are self-adhesive and printed on thick, highly glossy paper. They are die cut on all sides in a wavy pattern imitating perforations, somewhat irregularly, and gauging about 10. They lack luminescent bars. The genuine stamps were issued in two formats, both printed on matte paper. Self-adhesive stamps (Scott N° 4945 *Marianne de la Jeunesse* and N° 5492 *Marianne l'engagée*) were die cut on their vertical sides with an angular serpentine pattern gauging 7.75; the top and bottom edges were straight. Two vertical phosphorescent/fluorescent bars³ appear on either side of those stamps. Stamps with gum adhesive were also issued (Scott N° 4943 *Marianne de la Jeunesse* and N° 5481 *Marianne l'engagée*), perforated 13 on all sides, also with luminescent bars. The counterfeits thus differ in paper and separation from both the two genuine formats.

The only other recent counterfeit postage stamps of France I am aware of having been reported are the 2013 *Marianne de la Jeunesse* “*Lettre Prioritaire*” self-adhesive stamps (Scott N° 4428; Yvert & Tellier *autoadhésif* N° 851). Entire booklets of those, with printed covers and die cut stamps but without luminescent bars, were reported in October 2015⁴. As the report observed, “*Pre-cutting must*

be the most complex operation for a counterfeiter to perform.” The images published show that the die-cut separations are better than those on the subject stamps.

Although similar counterfeits may be uncommon as yet in France, they are widespread in the United States where they are marketed to the public at a discount. Some of these have been chronicled in a series of articles in *Linn's Stamp News* by Charles Snee. See, for example, “Counterfeit United States 2014 Flag and Fireworks coil stamps have surfaced” (24 February 2017)⁵, “Stream of recent U.S. counterfeit stamps continues with Diwali discovery” (17 March 2017)⁶, and “Counterfeit 2017 U.S. Love Skywriting stamps surface on eBay” (18 August 2017)⁷. So many are rapidly appearing that Scott is having trouble keeping up cataloging them: “*The counterfeit 2017 Love Skywriting stamp came to light too late for inclusion in the 2018 U.S. Specialized catalog, which will be published in October.*”⁸

lie-timbrephosphonews.blogspot.com/2015/10/faux-carnet-autocollant-marianne-et-la.html (accessed 9 June 2019).

5 Online at <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/2017/february/counterfeit-united-states-flag-and-fireworks-coil-stamps.html> (accessed 9 June 2019).

6 Online at <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/2017/march/united-states-counterfeit-stamps-diwali-issue.html> (accessed 9 June 2019).

7 Online at <https://www.linns.com/news/us-stamps-postal-history/2017/august/counterfeit-2017-united-states-love-skywriting-stamps.html> (accessed June 9, 2019).

8 *Id.*

3 Yvert & Tellier describe the bars as phosphorescent. In fact, the bars also fluoresce yellow under both longwave and shortwave UV light. After exposure to shortwave UV light, they phosphoresce for a few seconds before quickly fading.

4 See “Faux carnet autocollant ‘Marianne et la Jeunesse’,” LES NEWS DU PHOSPHO, *Blog philatélique des nouveautés phosphorescentes et autres sujets philatéliques* (15 October 2015), online at <https://blog-philate->

Those counterfeits, like the *Marianne* data matrix stamps, are self-adhesive with imperfect die cutting, lack the tagging on genuine stamps and are printed by “offset lithography, an indirect printing method easily susceptible to counterfeiting because the technology is readily available and affordable.”⁹

Snee provides information on the likely source of these postal counterfeits: “An active supply chain, operating out of China or Taiwan (or both, perhaps), has been funneling bogus U.S. stamps into the country for at least the past decade or so.”¹⁰

Another detail ties the *Marianne* stamps to the China counterfeits. Although the forgers did a fairly good job of reproducing the stamp images (albeit evident under magnification), they apparently had some technical problem in copying marginal writing around the designs. For example, in the lower right corner just outside the design of the Diwali stamp, appears the year “2016” in light print resembling dot matrix. In the counterfeits, however, the numbers are solid black and in an entirely different font (Figure 6). The forgers thus did not photograph the marginal year along with the stamp – perhaps that would have left a visible border around the stamp design that would be a problem – but instead recreated that year using some other available – but different – font.



Figure 6
Marginal year reference
genuine (top)
and forgery (bottom)

We see precisely this same feature in the new *Marianne* stamps. For example, just below the image of *Marianne l'engagée* in the genuine stamp appears “YSEULT YZ Phil@poste” but in the counterfeits, there is no space before the YZ and Phil is written without the initial capital “P”: “YSEULTYZ phil@poste.” In fact, careful examination shows that the size and shape of the letters and the “@” sign on the counterfeit stamps all differ from the genuine ones (Figure 7). The forgers, thus, did not copy the inscription from the stamps but created it independently and imperfectly. The inscriptions on the *Marianne de la Jeunesse* counterfeits similarly do not match the genuine ones.

9 *Id.*

10 *Id.*

Figure 7
Phil@poste
inscription
genuine (top)
and forgery
(bottom)



It thus appears that the *Marianne* counterfeits share an origin with the counterfeit die cut stamps widely sold in the United States; all apparently were made in China. It is only a matter of time before more – and better – forgeries appear in France and elsewhere. In fact, in March of this year, *Marianne de la Jeunesse* “*Lettre Prioritaire*” stamps have been reported with phosphorescent bars!¹¹

There are a few additional points to note. First, the envelopes were processed in France by a high-tech machine, the Toshiba TSC 1000 culler-facer-canceller, which scans envelopes, reads the addresses using OCR, verifies the postage paid, sprays on an ink-jet cancellation and codes and sorts the mail by category or destination. A philatelic blog expands on this:

“[The TSC 1000] first culls out (segregates) mail items that cannot be machine-processed as letter-class items, such as flats, newspapers and packets. The machine then scans both sides of a mail piece to recognize both postage stamps and addresses. It then cancels the postage stamp and sorts the mail pieces to category and/or destination according to the recognized information, in accordance with the sorting plan presently in use.”¹²

The TSC 1000 reads data matrices and can recognize phosphorescent and fluorescent tagging. It can handle in excess of 30,000 mail pieces an hour.

Besides wavy killer lines that cancel the stamps, the TSC 1000 prints other information such as “FRANCE/LA POSTE,” the date and the “ROC” code, abbreviation for *Référentiel des Organisations du Courrier*, the location where processed.¹³ Other information based on the scanning could be printed such as “*Lettre Prioritaire*.” The TSC 1000 has capabilities to detect frauds such as expired or photocopied stamps.¹⁴

11 See “Faux pour servir en Suisse,” *Blog philatélie des actualités, des articles et de l’humour sur la philatélie et La Poste* (6 March 2019), online at <https://blog-philatelie.blogspot.com/2019/03/faux-pour-servir-en-suisse.html> (accessed 21 June 2019).

12 “Toshiba TSC 1000: communiqué de presse,” *Blog philatélie des actualités, des articles et de l’humour sur la philatélie et La Poste* (21 April, 2011), online at <http://blog-philatelie.blogspot.com/2011/04/toshiba-tsc-1000-communique-de-presse.html> (accessed 10 June, 2019).

13 See “Les Codes ROC,” online at <http://www.philatelie-epernay.fr/IMG/pdf/95-2-page25a44.pdf> (accessed 10 June 2019). My two covers bear ROC codes 25635A (GONESSE PARIS NORD PIC) and 38276A (WISSOUS PARIS SUD PIC). See “*Liste des codes ROC par entité courrier*,” online at <http://marcophilie.org/doc-code-roc-2.html> (accessed 10 June, 2019).

14 See “La machine Toshiba TSC 1000,” *Philat’EG National*, on line at <http://www.philateg-national.com/nos-passions/marcophilie/228-la-machine-toshiba-tsc-1000> (accessed 10 June 2019).

The information the TSC 1000 prints on envelopes may change over time. Based on a number of recent covers I have seen, the current procedure appears to be as follows: If the machine recognizes a data matrix for foreign postage, it will print a cancellation with 7 *crochets* or brackets (Figure 8). If the stamp was printed at home using *La Poste's* website (*MonTimbrenLigne* or “my stamp online”) it will have a different data matrix, and the TSC 1000 will print a cancellation with four *crochets*. Where stamps are used that have no data matrix, the cancellation will have no *crochets*.

Here, the machine printed a cancellation on the counterfeit *Marianne* without any *crochets*. I suspect that happened, not because there was a problem reading the data matrix, but because the stamps lacked luminescent bars and apparently were treated as ordinary stamps. Despite its many high-tech capabilities, the TSC 1000 failed to recognize that the stamps were bogus and sent the envelopes on their way to

Texas.

Finally, in contrast with the dirt cheap envelopes used for Nigerian scam mail, the *Marianne* envelopes are made of quality white paper backed inside with a tint pattern for opacity and were self-sealing (“peel and seal”). They were addressed with neatly printed adhesive labels and not by hand as in the old days. These envelopes were not cheap. Does this indicate the scammers are more successful than in the old days? Probably not. One thing we do know – the scammers have kept up with the times and are now environmental-friendly. The envelopes bear the logo of PFSC, certifying that the paper meets standards for forest sustainability set by the Programme for the Endorsement of Forest Certification, as well as the NF-Environnement Mark, certifying compliance with AFNOR’s ecological and fitness-for-purpose criteria. Unless those marks too are fraudulent. More likely, the envelopes were stolen.



Figure 8
Genuine stamp and cover treated by a TSC 1000 and cancelled by two rows of seven *crochets*

I owe a huge “*merci*” to Dominique Stéphan for his expert help. Thanks also to Jan Gane and those who responded to inquiries at stampboards.com and colorprintingforum.com

From Vichy France to England via Lisbon, March-July 1941

Barbara Priddy

(correspondence translated by Mick Bister)

A cover from Perpignan in March 1941 and two covers and letters from Toulouse in April and July 1941, from the collection of the late Ray Downing and generously given to me by Agnes Downing, show that, although correspondence could be carried on between unoccupied Vichy France and England via Lisbon, different items of mail could receive very different treatment. They also show how seldom the actual franking of covers corresponds to the published rates.



Figure 1

The covers

The first, cancelled at Perpignan 7 March 1941, is addressed to London, and endorsed 'Par avion - Via Clipper / Par Lisbonne' (Figure 1). As it was franked only 3F80, it did not stand a chance of getting on a Clipper, for which the minimum franking would have been 12F. Nor would it have done it any good if it had, because from February to May 1941 the PAA Clippers flew a clockwise New York - Bermuda - Lisbon - Bolama - Port of Spain - San Juan - New York route. So what did happen to it? In France, it was opened and censored and resealed with tape tied by the cachet 'Ouvrte par les Autorit s de Contr le', although the cachet is not legible enough to read the town identification

letters. Although the routing endorsement and airmail etiquette were not cancelled, there was at this time no air service from France to Lisbon, so the cover went by surface, probably by train via Barcelona, to Lisbon. The franking of 3F80 probably represents the 2F50 foreign postage rate for a letter under 20g in force from 1 January 1940 to 1 February 1942 plus the 1F25 airmail fee for a letter under 20g to Europe in force from 29 November 1939 to 23 June 1941. It is consequently overfranked by 5c. At Lisbon, therefore, it was probably sorted as airmail and put on either of the two services for the UK - the landplane service to Bristol flown by KLM under charter



Figure 2

to BOAC, or the BOAC flying-boat service to Poole. It was then sent by train to London and opened and censored in the GPO Foreign Section, whose sealing-tape covered the original French sealing-tape. On reaching its destination, it was readdressed and reposted at London S.W.1 on 2 June 1941. It was thus up to 87 days in transit, a delay attributable to the French censor, the volume of mail at Lisbon, and the English censor.

The second, cancelled at Toulouse 6 April 1941, is addressed to Taunton, endorsed 'Par Avion', 'Great Britain / By air mail' and 'Via Lisbonne' (Figure 2). The 'Par Avion' was struck out at Marseille, but thereafter it probably followed the same route as the first cover, although with no arrival markings we cannot be sure. The franking of 5F is unexplained: if the letter was under 20g it should have been franked 2F50 foreign postage plus 1F25 airmail fee = 3F75, and if over 20g 4F foreign postage plus 2F50 airmail fee = 6F50. Amazingly it has not been opened and censored either in France or in England.

The third, similarly cancelled probably at Toulouse in July 1941, addressed to Taunton, and endorsed 'Par Avion' and 'Via Lisbonne', received very different treatment (Figure 3). It is also franked 5F, but from 23 June the airmail fee had been raised to 2F per 10g. A letter under 10g should therefore have been franked 2F50 foreign postage plus 2F airmail fee = 4F50. At Marseille, the 'Par Avion' was struck out, then it was opened along the left side, censored and resealed with tape. The double-ring cachet 'AK' was also probably applied here. The cover also appears to have been partially opened and resealed along the top edge with tape which has been removed, taking some of the cancellation with it.

From May to December 1941 the PAA Clippers were following a simple New York - Bermuda - Horta - Lisbon and return route across the North Atlantic, but this would not have affected the treatment of this cover. Having probably followed the same route as the first two covers, it was opened along the right side and censored in the GPO Foreign Section.



Figure 3

Copy

The Correspondence

*mon
ou est
devenue
de ce
de Mrs
suppose
qu'elle
répondre
à l'adresse
de Mrs
Redgate -*

Toulouse 4 Avril 1941

Cher Llewellyn

C'est avec grand plaisir que j'ai reçu de tes nouvelles il y a quelques jours, c'est même avec quelque surprise car vraiment je croyais que tout trafic postal avec l'Angleterre était supprimé - J'ai été encore plus surpris que ma lettre n'ait pas été censurée -

J'ai été très heureux d'apprendre que l'Angleterre ne souffrait pas trop des bombardements. Il ne s'en dit que nous ne sommes pas très bien informés -

Ici la vie est à peu près normale, elle est même un peu monotone, tout semble mort, les industries marchent au grand ralenti. La police est extrêmement stricte et nous sommes encore obligés d'observer le blackout.

Le problème le plus inquiétant est celui de la nourriture (le blocus est efficace) - Les rations de pain

Figure 4

M. le 15 juillet 1941

Cher Llewellyn

Je m'excuse tout d'abord d'avoir été long à répondre; ta lettre m'est parvenue il y a trois semaines; comme la précédente elle avait été ouverte par la censure anglaise, mais n'a pas été biffée - Je suis en vacances depuis le début de juin; j'ai malheureusement échoué à mon examen. J'ai quitté la ville universitaire pour aller me plonger dans le calme plat de la campagne, dans une atmosphère très reposante. Je suis avec mes grands parents et mes parents à la ferme de mon grand père; il y fait terriblement chaud depuis deux ou trois jours où de violents orages ont rafraîchi la température. C'est un second Stoke à plus de mille kilomètres de l'autre, aussi calme, aussi mort. J'aime bien le farniente à l'ombre des grands platanes et des marronniers hélas! Je repasse mon examen en Octobre.

Nous sommes heureux d'être près de la ville car, ne disposant plus de l'auto, nous faisons facilement tous nos trajets à bicyclette. Est resté -

Figure 5

The two envelopes addressed to Mr Llewellyn Redgate at Stoke St Gregory in Somerset still contain their original correspondence. The letters are written by Llewellyn's friend, Pierre, who lives in the Unoccupied Zone. Occasionally, Pierre refers affectionately to Llewellyn as 'Lou' or 'Bonzy'. It is assumed that as the letters are addressed to 'The Manse' Llewellyn was the son of the minister at the Baptist Church in Stoke St Gregory. The Manse and the church still exist today.

Neither of the two letters has been censored and, as a result, the contents record an intriguing insight into everyday life and the standard of living under the Vichy regime in 1941.

Letter dated Toulouse, 4 April 1941 (Figure 4)

"Dear Llewellyn

"It was such a pleasure to hear from you a few days ago. It was somewhat of a surprise too as I really thought that all postal relations with England had been suspended. I was even more surprised that my letter had not been censored.

"I was delighted to learn that England is not suffering from too many air raids. It goes without saying that we are not very well informed.

"Here, life is more or less normal. It's rather monotonous; everything seems lifeless and the factories are running down. The police are extremely strict and the blackout is still enforced.

"The most worrying problem is food (the blockade is working very well). Bread (rye bread) and meat rations have been drastically reduced. It is so strange to see people coming back from the market with their shopping bags half empty. They all look so miserable. There are always endless queues outside the shops and they are rarely peaceful. You can quite often see women having a scrap, some engaging in fisticuffs and others pulling one another's hair ending up with the police being forced to intervene.

"The cost of living has increased terribly so we have to spend large sums of money on food. In the streets lots of people are pushing their handcarts around because transport is unreliable. There are however a good number of cars running on charcoal, acetylene or town gas. But as you need a special permit to drive, the majority of cars are kept in the garage.

"Bit by bit the shops are running out of stock. At the moment you have to have a special card to be able to buy clothing or shoes. We shall all soon be threadbare. I eat fairly well because I am living with a family and also I receive a few groceries from home. I'm not that thin yet! I live in a charming brand

new house. Being with a family, life is quite interesting.

"It's been five weeks now since I have seen my home and I have started packing in readiness for tomorrow when I return home for the Easter holidays. I shall catch the stopping train¹, the only one I can take; we call it a 'jalopy' or 'old banger' and it will take me nearly three hours to do 100 kilometres. Once home, I will tuck into some good meals that have been cooked for me. During my spare time I will do a bit of digging. It's an excellent activity and I must think about the winter which will be very hard if this madness is not over which is unlikely.

"Sporting events are somewhat restricted. On Sunday I went to see a rugby union championship match. You were asking me for news of Jean. Well, he is in excellent health and revising for his maths baccalauréat which he unfortunately failed last October. Perhaps he will now join the Compagnons de France² but I can't be certain. Anyway, I think that you can ask for a deferment. I'll be meeting up with him in a few days and together we will listen to the English radio; he has a more modern wireless than we do. We need to listen to your broadcasts from time to time to gain strength. It is physically and morally impossible for you to lose the war. My dear friend, I am always pleased with the work you English are doing.

"I think from time to time about Stoke and am so happy that life there is normal. I am sure that Mr and Mrs Redman are full of hope. As for you, Mr L Redman of the Fleet Air Arm, you must be very optimistic. Don't worry yourself over me. I always look on the bright side.

"Pass on my best wishes to your parents.

"Adieu Bonzy from your devoted friend, Pierre

"PS Mother was delighted to receive news from Mrs Redman. I am assuming she will write back soon."

1 Pierre, the writer, describes the transport as 'un train omnibus' which strictly speaking is a slow train stopping at all stations. However, his nicknames for it, 'guimbarde' and 'taco', are usually descriptive of old cars. Perhaps the chosen transport was in fact an old bus doing the 'train-omnibus' route.

2 "The *Compagnons de France* was a Vichy-era youth organisation, founded in the summer of 1940 and dissolved in January 1944. Its membership was never numerous, a few tens of thousands at most, but it was no less significant for all that. It was the carrier of a *Kulturkritik* that blamed France's ills on parliamentary democracy, liberalism, and a market-oriented individualism, and it had antidotes to propose: authority, faith, community. Vichy tapped into such grass-roots initiatives, mobilizing and turning them to its purposes. As the Vichy dictatorship descended into collaborationist squalor, however, a growing number of *Compagnons* turned away, opting instead for the Resistance." Extract from 'Vichy and its Aftermaths: The *Compagnons de France*' by Philip Nord.

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Letter dated Toulouse, 15 July 1941 (Figure 5)

"Dear Llewellyn

"I am sorry for taking so long to write back. Your letter reached me weeks ago. Like the previous one it had been opened by the English censor but nothing had been crossed out.

"I have been on holiday since the beginning of June; unfortunately I failed my exam. I have left academia and buried myself in the still quiet of countryside where the air is so relaxing. I am with my parents and my grandparents at my grandfather's farm. It's been dreadfully hot here for two or three days during which violent storms have brought down the temperature. It's a second Stoke but over a thousand kilometres away, quiet and as lifeless. I love to laze in the shade of the huge plane trees and chestnut trees but, alas, I am sitting my exam again in October.

"We are fortunate to be close to the town as, no longer having a car available to us, we can do all our trips there on our bikes. Restrictions have obliged us to become inventive. We have re-established a huge garden which has lain neglected for about fifteen years. Gardening is very pleasant once the backbreaking work has been done. I think we are going to have a good harvest of haricots for the winter. We are condemned to becoming vegetarians but I think it will be healthy. Wine rationing has started; what a shame!

"It's been a fortnight since we had the haymaking. I find this time of year takes on a fairytale nature. It is delightful to breathe in the balmy air and, in the evenings, to watch the carts passing by pulled by oxen. Yesterday we harvested the wheat but in the old-fashioned way, that is to say, with a scythe because we no longer have any string for the binder-reaper.

"The cost of living has risen considerably. A horse is now worth as much as the average car before the war. In spite of that, I'm not worrying too much; I'm happy that I have been able to travel when I had the time. To have a quiet life, you need to get away from everything and not think too much about humanity. Here in the still quiet there are no newspapers, no radio; such a relief! Furthermore, I watch the international situation from a totally fatalistic and detached position. My dear friend, do understand that for the time being we can but correspond as friends. Do not head your letter with your address.

"I send my best wishes to you and my love to your parents.

Pierre"

SHORTER ITEMS - INCLUDING QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Marianne l'engagée Update

Further items in the series appeared at the *Salon d'Automne* in Paris last November. A set of three *Timbres de Distributeurs* (Post & Go labels): *Lettre Verte*, *Lettre Prioritaire* and *Ecopli*, with an attractive background design

(Figure 1) was issued in a *pochette* for 2,53€. It is a welcome innovation to make these available in packs saving visitors considerable time from having to queue for hours at the Lisa machines at the exhibition!



Figure 1
0,95€ *Lettre Prioritaire* label

Another issue of note was the unique set of ten sheets featuring imperforate examples of the nine current stamps in varying multiples of 8, 16 or 17 copies dependant on their face value (Figure 2). The tenth sheet featured just

one example of a new 15€ maxi stamp (Figure 3). Only 8,000 sets were issued at a face value of 95€. With just one copy per set, the imperf maxi stamp is set to become one of the scarcest stamps of modern France.



Figure 2
Imperforate *bloc* of 17 copies
of the *Lettre Prioritaire* issue



Figure 3
Imperforate 15€ maxi stamp

Richard Broadhurst

170th Anniversary of the first French postage stamp 20c Cérès, 1849-2019

On 14 March 2019 a *bloc* of twenty stamps was issued to commemorate the 170th anniversary of the first postage stamp of France (Figure 1), the 20c black on yellow Cérès (YT3). The stamps are imperforate and are printed in typography as were the originals; there is one *tête-bêche* example at position 13. The stamps each have a face value of 0,88€ which represents the current *lettre verte* rate. 90,000 sheets were issued.

Apart from the marginal inscriptions the *bloc* is similar to the Cérès carmine and vermilion *bloc* (YT F4871) (Figure 2) issued in 2014. This *bloc* contained two *tête-bêche* pairs and was issued in the much smaller quantity of 35,000. With an original face value of 20€ it is now catalogued at 140€ just five years after issue – making it one of the highest and fastest risers of the modern period.

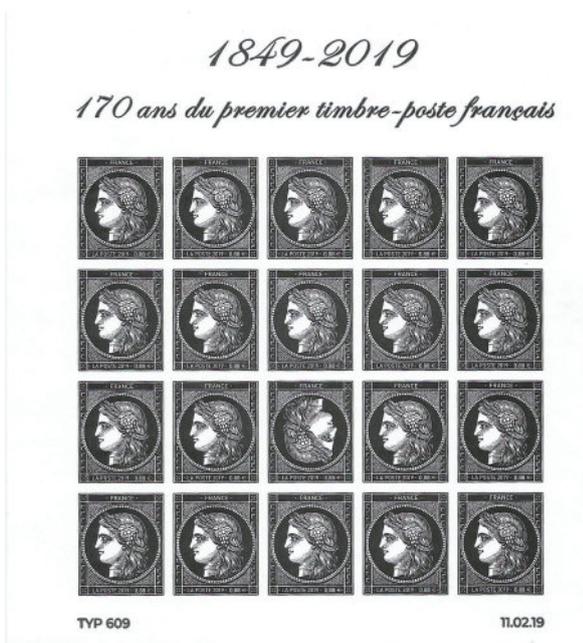


Figure 1
2019 *bloc* of the 0,88€ value



Figure 2
2014 *bloc* of the 1€ value

In addition a prestige sheet of 150 Cérès imperforate stamps each with a face value of 0,20€ to replicate the original 20c value appeared at the same time. The sheet measuring 240 x 415mm and printed on yellow tinted paper was sold in a presentation folder (*coffret*) containing a *document philatélique* with a cancelled copy (Figure 3), a further mint example of the stamp and a facsimile of the *avis au public* of 16 December 1848 (Figure 4).

The complete *coffret* was available only at the *Salon de Printemps* from 14-16 March and afterwards at the *Carré d'Encre*¹ in Paris. Only 6,000 were produced at a cost of

55€ each, the face value of the stamps being just 30€. Each sheet is numbered and contains one *coin daté* which along with the *tête-bêche* pair will be much sought after. It is interesting to note that the *tête-bêche* pair in the prestige sheet is a true one in that the entire stamp including frame is inverted as in the original sheet whereas in the *bloc* it is only the Cérès head that is inverted.

In line with previous limited edition issues, if you are lucky enough to acquire one, you will no doubt be rewarded by a substantial increase on your investment in the next Yvert catalogue.

¹ The *Carré d'Encre* is the official outlet for Phil@poste and is located in the Rue des Mathurins, Paris 9. It describes itself as a 'véritable temple dédié au timbre, à la philatélie et à la correspondance'



Figure 3
Cancelled copy of the stamp
from the 2019 *coffret*

Figure 4

Other components
in the 2019 *coffret*

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE.
Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité.
ADMINISTRATION DES POSTES.

AVIS AU PUBLIC.

TAXE DES LETTRES.



LES POSTES DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE croit devoir appeler de nouveau l'attention du Public sur l'avis du 16 décembre 1848, relatif à la taxe des lettres, dont la mise en vigueur est fixée au 1^{er} janvier 1849. Les mesures d'exécution arrêtées le 13 de ce mois par M. le Ministre des finances, et qui ont été publiées par le Journal Officiel, ont été révisées, et sont maintenant en vigueur dans tout le territoire de la France, de la Corse et des colonies.

Les lettres affranchies de bureau à bureau, dans toute l'étendue du territoire de la France, de la Corse et des colonies, ne payeront pas de taxe de bureau, mais elles payeront :

jusqu'à 7 grammes 1/2	20 centimes;
de 7 à 15 grammes	40 centimes;
de 15 à 100 grammes	1 franc.

Les lettres de plus de 100 grammes supporteront un supplément de taxe de un franc pour chaque lettre.

Les lettres affranchies au double port. L'affranchissement de ces lettres est obligatoire. Les lettres affranchies françaises, dont le transport devra être ou aura été effectué par les bâtiments du service des courriers en France que la taxe de bureau à bureau ci-dessus fixée, plus le décime fixe pour les lettres de Paris pour Paris ou d'une commune pour la même commune.

Les lettres affranchies sans déplacement pour le Public, l'Administration fera vendre dans tous les bureaux de poste, à dater du 25 décembre courant, au prix nominal de 20 centimes, 40 centimes et 1 franc, et dont l'apposition sur une lettre suffira pour en opérer l'affranchissement. Les lettres affranchies eux-mêmes, puis jetées à la boîte sans autre formalité. Si, au lieu d'affranchir lui-même, l'expéditeur se présente dans un bureau de poste, les employés ne l'affranchiront pas autrement que de lui faire placer sur sa lettre un timbre-poste qui représente une taxe moindre que celle qui s'appliquerait à la lettre mal affranchie un supplément de taxe qui devra être acquitté par l'expéditeur.

L'expéditeur devra les coller avec soin sur la suscription, et, autant que possible, sur une feuille séparée, en un quart d'heure après la dernière levée officielle de la boîte, selon les usages de la République, sera taxée, jusqu'au 31 décembre courant, à minuit, de la taxe actuellement en vigueur, et à partir du lendemain 1^{er} janvier, de la taxe uniforme qui sera maintenue et devront être perçues quelle que soit l'époque de la remise des lettres.

Les lettres qui contiennent 300 timbres et qui sont divisibles par 150; mais ils seront vendus au public au petit nombre que le Public le désirera, et par unité même, pour le prix de 1 franc, et seront réservées aux directeurs des postes et aux facteurs en tournée. Chacun de ces agents sera tenu de satisfaire à toute demande du Public, et de s'immiscer dans la vente des timbres-postes.

ÉTIENNE ARAGO.

Facsimilé de l'affiche du 16 décembre 1848; Collection Musée de La Poste, Paris



2088 / 6000

Richard Broadhurst

La Réunion: the '2c' surcharge of 7 December 1894



Figure 1

Here is a question for those with specialised knowledge of the Dubois issue and/or early Réunion stamps. Dallay 2004-2005 DOM-TOM has a plating table for Réunion N° 45. The table shows the 'sans point après C' to appear on the left end of a strip of five only in position 1, followed by four copies of N° 45 Type I overprint. Yet the strip above (Figure 1) clearly appears to be N°45 Type Ia (no dot), followed by 45 Type I, 45 Type II, 45 Type I and 45 Type II in positions 2 to 5¹.

Examination with a 30X lighted magnifier and with a

1 Catalogue correlation: Réunion, 1894 (7 Dec). 2c on 20c Dubois ('Déesse' or 'Commerce'), red on green. Three types listed as SG 47/9; Scott 53/5; Michel 45 I/II/III; Yvert 45/a/b and Dallay 45I/II/III. Variety, dot missing after 'c' listed as Yvert 45c; Dallay 45Ia. Not in SG or Scott and footnoted in Michel.

Far from being a fake, this could well be an important positional find.

Firstly, the strip is almost certainly genuine. It's true that Fournier forged examples of the basic Dubois stamp (details in ref. 1, a classic resource for detecting French colonial forgeries), but not only are the colouring, design details and perfs too good on Mr Fairchild's copies, the forgeries were produced in blocks of 12. A Fournier-forged strip of five is therefore physically impossible.

Next, it's just conceivable that the surcharges are forged on genuine stamps – but there would seem to be little point, given that the basic stamps are worth more than the surcharged. (The situation might of course have been different in an earlier era.) Here is an easy check: genuine surcharges were applied with some force, leaving clear indentations (*fouillage* in French) on the back of each stamp. This effect shows best on mint, but is discernible on used copies too.

Incidentally, only a freakishly conscientious forger would have copied a known setting with such evident care yet

computer expansion of about 24X shows no sign of a period after the first C. Neither UV light nor watermark fluid shows anything unusual.

(Per Dallay, the only positions with 45I, 45I, 45II, 45I, 45II in a strip are 21-25 and 26-30². None of those positions is shown as having the 'sans point après C' variety.) Is Dallay wrong? Is the surcharge fake? Is the whole Dubois strip fake? Are there other simple tests I should try to discover the missing point?

Type 45Ia has a value of only 30 euros in the catalogue, so there is not much value in question.

2 Note that Dallay shows a full pane of 50 stamps rather than the single setting of 25 in other sources such as Yvert hence position numbers differ. See Michael Round's comments on page 89.

Stan Fairchild

resisted the temptation to forge the one with the scarce (and potentially lucrative) figure '2' in Type III.

Much of the information contained in Dallay (Fairchild, *vide supra*), yet omitted from other catalogues, was gleaned from the unofficial colonies-collector's bible, the Yvert catalogue of 1932 (ref. 2). Although not so described in its title, this was a truly specialised production. Yvert, in its turn, had borrowed from the pioneering work of Baron de Vinck de Winnezele (ref. 3).

Comparing not just the placings of the three types of '2' but also their relative alignments within the sheet, the Baron opined that the surcharge was applied in a setting of 25, i.e. six times per sheet (of 150), and listed the positions in which the various types of figure '2' were to be found (Type 1, 18 times out of 25; Type 2, 6 times; Type 3, just once) (Figures 2a and 2b).

The Yvert Specialised agreed, supplementing its own listing with a photograph of a complete setting of 25 (ref. 4). Positions within the setting of 25 are as follows:



Figure 2a

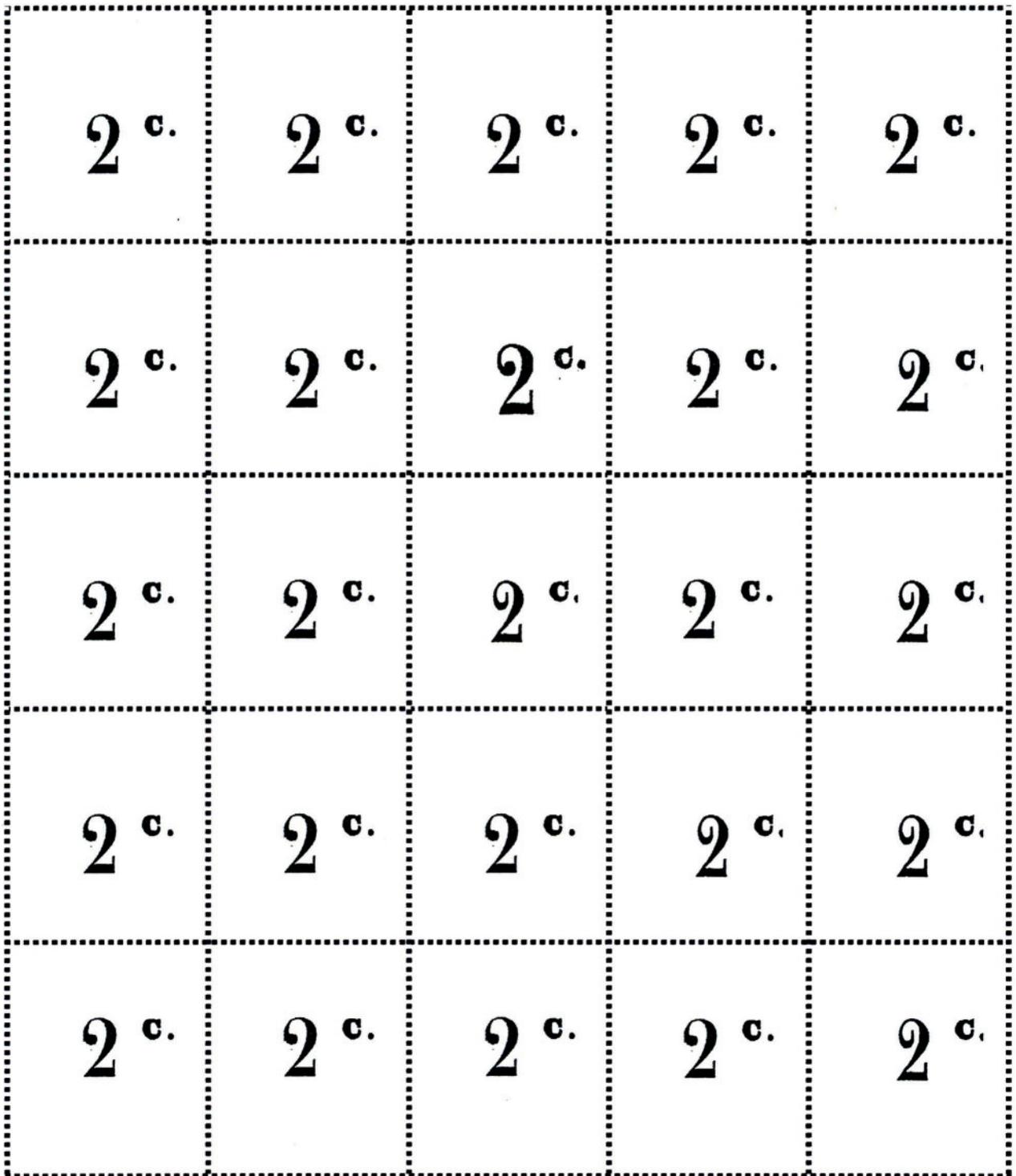


Figure 2b

Dallay also lists every position, though throwing a spanner in the works while so doing. For although each surcharge setting was of 25 units, each pane of stamps was of 50 (three panes per whole sheet). Dallay's diagram is not of a setting but a pane, units being numbered from 1 to 50 across two settings side by side – so while positions numbered '6-10' in Yvert relate to Row 2 of the setting, in Dallay they relate to the repeat of Row 1. Yvert's positions '6-10' then become in Dallay positions '11-15' (repeated at positions '16-20'). Subsequent numbering between catalogues thereafter fails to match, and in placing Type 3 of figure '2' only in position '13' ('8' in Yvert), Dallay has overlooked its placing in what it would call position '18' too.

All this, and we have not yet mentioned dots, missing or otherwise. Here the Yvert Specialised and Dallay do agree, in placing the missing dots at positions 1, 10 and 55 out of the whole sheet of 150. (Yvert's photograph shows a dot clearly missing from the top right corner stamp, which must therefore be position 10 or 55.)

As Mr Fairchild has stated, none of the catalogued missing-dot positions matches that in his own strip. Fakery can be ruled out, I think - a dot could not have been removed without visibly damaging the stamp – and, as Mr Fairchild points out, this variety's modest catalogue value would make it scarcely worth the bother.

It may well be true that dots are constantly missing from positions 1, 10 and 25. But it is not impossible that others may simply have dropped out from time to time. The Baron's commentary could be read as hinting as much – for he declined to give sheet-positions for them, writing instead "*Comme conséquence, la variété 'sans point après C' serait accidentelle.*" ("On that basis, the 'no dot' variety would be accidental" – my thanks to Mick Bister for accurately translating the French text, quoted in context in the Appendix below.) Possibly an explanatory sentence could have preceded and clarified this, to the effect that (perhaps) any dots the Baron found were in non-constant places within the sheet.

Footnote

Members routinely comparing catalogue listings will not be surprised to learn that the issue-date of this surcharge seems to be in dispute. Winnezeele, Yvert Specialised, Pomyers (ref. 5), Dallay and SG all agree on 7 December 1894, but modern Yvert (unless corrected since 2002, the latest edition I currently have to hand) and Scott (2003, in a Réunion listing buried under F for France) both give 1893. As they would say in Parliament, the 1894s have it!

References

1. *Vade-Mecum du Spécialiste-Expert en Timbres-Poste, Hors d'Europe*. Fernand Serrane, Bergerac 1929.
2. *Catalogue des Timbres-Poste de la France et des Colonies Françaises, Tome II, Colonies Françaises, pays de Protectorat, Pays sous Mandat, Territoires Occupés par les Troupes Françaises*. Yvert et Cie, Amiens 1932.
3. *Colonies Françaises et Bureaux à l'Étranger: Étude des Timbres Surchargés et des Émissions d'Impression Locale de 1852 à 1919*. Baron de Vinck de Winnezeele, Brussels 1928.
4. Yvert *op. cit.*, p. 613
5. *Les Timbres de La Réunion*, Comte Olivier de Pomyers. Bischwillir, 1958(?), p. 67

Appendix

Baron de Vinck de Winnezeele, full context:

"Nous pensons que cette surcharge a été apposée au moyen d'une composition de 25 clichés, car tous les blocs de 25 comportent les types du chiffre "2" aux mêmes emplacements, et que les défauts d'alignement de la base de ce chiffre se reproduisent aux mêmes endroits dans chaque bloc. Comme conséquence, la variété 'sans point après C' serait accidentelle."

Michael Round

New Caledonia



The 10c on 40c overprint, 'with dot' and 'without dot' after the 'c' (enlarged)

The Réunion issue (above) is not the only one over which catalogues disagree. An 1891 surcharge from New Caledonia exists both with and without dot after '10c'. (In this case, it is immaterial whether the whole surcharge is inverted or not.)

Currently, Dallay and Scott list the no-dot version as 13b and 12b respectively, as did Ceres in 2003/4 (13c) and the 'Yvert Specialised' – but the go-to catalogues for members today, namely SG and the modern Yvert, fail even to mention it.

Michael Round

Little and Large



Figure 1

I have come across this mysterious ‘thimble’ postmark measuring only 18.5mm in diameter applied to a package containing a Col.Fra bulletin (Figure 1). The stamps have been machine cancelled 9 October 2018 at ROC 22014A which is the code for St Gibrien in the *département* of Marne. During transit at the

PPDC (*Plate-forme de Préparation et de Distribution du Courrier*) at the Paris 9 office the ‘thimble’ has been applied carefully to the corner of each stamp. What could be the reason for the second cancellation other than perhaps the first cancellation being deemed too light and ineffective?

Michael Round



Figure 2



Figure 3

In contrast, I can report a 39mm postmark applied to mail from the Gironde. Recent items purchased on Delcampe but from different vendors have been received from Le Taillon-Médoc and St Aubun-de-Médoc cancelled 13

March and 18 March 2019 respectively (Figures 2 & 3). Members will be already familiar with the personalised *MonTimbraMoi* stamps. Has *La Poste* now launched a *MonCachetaMoi* money-raiser?

Mick Bister

Indochina stamp



I recently acquired this unusual stamp from Indo-China but I am not sure what the *GREFFE* means. I notice it was hand cancelled so I think it may be some kind of revenue or government service stamp, but there is nothing in

any of my catalogues. I would appreciate any help you could give me, or if you could even point me in the right direction or recommend a person to find out what that means.

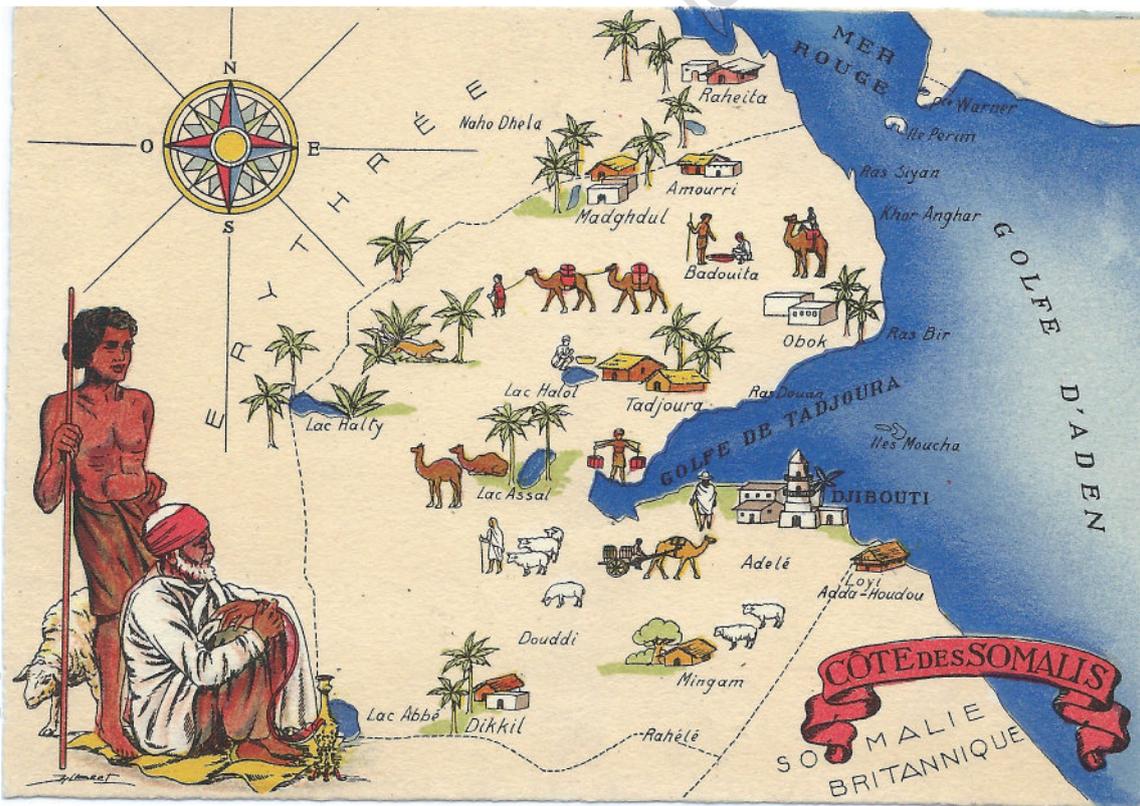
Marden Blackledge

The stamp is one of several of the Navigation and Commerce series overprinted to do duty for clerk of court fees in 1896. They were attached to legal documents to

certify the amount of fees paid. They are listed as G5-G9 in the Duston Catalog. In Britain, they should be listed in the Barefoot Catalogue, but I can't place my hands on it.

Ron Bentley

French Somali Coast



I have recently discovered a postcard depicting the French Somali Coast which I believe was probably produced around 1942. Clearly the designer was not a

qualified cartographer as he has omitted the northern border of Ethiopia, thereby ceding all the territory to Eritrea.

Michael Round

Shorter Items continued on page iii

REPORTS OF MEETINGS

LONDON GROUP MEETING OF 11 MAY 2019

Michael Round: 150 Years of French Congo



Michael Round opened his display by explaining that the political history of Congo is complex, being closely tied to that of Gabon and the two inland colonies alongside, *Oubangui-Chari* and *Tchad*. Familiar to all members as the component territories of French Equatorial Africa (AEF), these colonies' individual histories alternately combine and part company, with practically all stages traceable through their stamps. French Congo's own issues have at various times been inscribed *Congo Français*, *Moyen Congo* and *Afrique Equatoriale Française*, and since independence *République du Congo*, *République Populaire du Congo* and just *Congo*!¹

Two periods pre-dated French Congo's first stamps. One, even pre-dating the founding of Brazzaville as the country's capital (1884), was *Établissements du Gabon*. At this time all four AEF countries came under a '*Congo Français*' umbrella. This gave Michael's first item, a stampless cover from Libreville dated 1863 and cancelled *ÉTABLISSEMENTS DU GABON - GABON*, a relevance not obvious from the fact that – as we all know – Libreville is the capital of Gabon, not Congo as we now know it (**Figures 1a and 1b**). According to Robert Stone, erstwhile doyen of the American France and Colonies Society, fewer

than 20 covers bearing this postmark are known (Ref 1²).

From 1888 to 1891, thereby still pre-dating French Congo's first stamps, the combined four-country territory was called Gabon-Congo. Traces of this remain, philatelically, after the event, when Brazzaville exhumed and briefly used a postmark so inscribed (**Figure 2**).

After a period using general French Colonies issues, Congo's first individual stamps appeared in 1891. These surcharges in black on mostly black ('Seated Goddess') stamps, printed in quantities of less than 3,000 apiece, are visually unappealing as well as scarce, even when not forged. They were replaced in 1892 by the far more familiar 'Tablet type' definitives ('*Type Groupe*' in French), a design used throughout the French Empire. Congo's basic set was shown augmented by a range of shades, broken letters in the country name (the most collectable being 'CUNGO' for 'CONGO') and postmarks. Not included, however, were the two hugely rare '*Valeur*' surcharges of 1900 (SG 34/5; Yvert 25/6). Used are difficult enough: surviving quantities of mint depend on which catalogue you consult. Yvert claims that only one copy of each exists mint, but Michel suggests three.

The following pictorials of 1900 were pioneering and adventurous. They got, and probably deserved, a quite disproportionate amount of the display time. Every component, from exact date of issue and postal validity through variations of design, paper, perf, watermark and shade is arguable, and hotly debated in France. Michael's article on them, a spin-off from his suggested revisions for the SG 'French Colonies' catalogue listing, appeared in

1 Issues inscribed *État Independent du Congo*, *Congo Belge*, *Belgisch Congo* and *République Démocratique du Congo* emanate from the "other" Congo across the river, the former Belgian Congo (also briefly known as *Zaire*). During the 1960s, confusingly, this country also issued stamps inscribed '*République du Congo*' and denominated, like French Congo's, in francs: newcomers need a knowledge of both countries' styles of design in order to attribute them correctly.

To minimise confusion between the two republics, they are also referred to according to their respective capital cities - "our" Congo as Congo Brazzaville, and the former Belgian one as Congo Kinshasa.

From 1894 to 1920 a part of Angola issued stamps inscribed 'Congo'. This was Portuguese Congo, an area later reabsorbed into the parent country.

2 Reference 1: *The Diverse World of Postal Markings of Gabon/Congo/A.E.F.* Stone, Robert G. The France and Colonies Philatelic Society, Inc., New York, NY, 1987.



Figure 1a
1863 cover from Libreville (Gabon), part of Congo Français



Figure 1b
ÉTABLISSEMENTS DU GABON -
GABON postmark



Figure 2
GABON-CONGO postmark,
briefly resurrected

'Gibbons Stamp Monthly' (Ref 2³) and the display included fanciful "proofs" and essays possibly churned out post hoc (Figure 3). Sanity returned in 1904 with the change of name to *Moyen Congo*, the designs of 1900 being redrawn to more closely match equivalent issues elsewhere in the French Empire. Federation in 1911 was belatedly noted by *'Afrique Equatoriale Française'* overprints (1924) on the current stamps of all four countries. Here as elsewhere, the depreciation of the metropolitan French franc then generated a sequence of surcharges, new colours and values, all swept aside in 1930 with new designs, both Postage Due (all four countries) and Postage (Congo and Gabon only). Usage of one country's stamps in another was unusual, but not forbidden (Figure 4).

Overprints on the new Congo and Gabon pictorials (1936) opened the next chapter: *Afrique Equatoriale Française* again, but now with all four countries using the same stamps. The long and glamorous 1937 pictorial set (including airmails) was then copiously overprinted *'France Libre'* in various forms, highlighting AEF's wartime allegiance to de Gaulle rather than Vichy. As capital of the whole AEF region, rather than just Congo, Brazzaville generated a mass of covers, some of them costly when franked with certain of the overprints or surcharges.

Low values of the next definitives (1947) filled beginner

stamp packets for decades thereafter, but it is only recently that cataloguers have begun to tackle known variations of shade and perforation.

The AEF period – and the first half of the display – ended with a small flurry of pictorials and commemoratives, many of them superbly engraved in a style familiar to collectors of contemporary metropolitan France. This style continued through the first decade or so of independence (1958), its quality of production fully deserving of attention and album space. The first few years were marked by an exuberant outpouring of material (Figure 5). As before, stamps of each component country could be used in any other, at least from 1961 to 1964 (Figure 6).

With few exceptions, more recent issues since the 1970s are harder to enjoy. Completion in the album is hindered by their sheer quantity - nearly 1,600 in all, since 1969, including 'Agency' thematics of limited relevance to the country and generally worthless unless postally used. Those of us unwilling to ignore modern Congolese philately altogether may save just what odd stamps appeal (or come our way), mounting them on pages as "selections" and supplementing them with genuinely travelled covers – preferably from towns beyond the country's Big Three: Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Dolisie. Appealing for all the wrong reasons was an 'Agency' thematic set of 1993 (SG 1349/56; Yv 971/8; Mi 1363/70) bearing not only several misspelt scientific names but also, absurdly, the word *'Correos'* instead of *'Postes'* (Figure 7).

3 Reference 2: *French Congo Pictorials of 1900*. Round, M. Gibbons Stamp Monthly, July 2016.



Figure 3
1900 issue, 1F value:
alleged "essay"
in fanciful colours



Figure 4
Moyen Congo issue,
used in neighbouring
Oubangui-Chari



Figure 5
First-day postcard, from the early years of independence

Amid the prevailing large-format multicoloured novelties, one drab-looking set deserved, and got, a generous allocation of space. (An article on it appeared in this Journal in 2004, Ref. 3⁴). This was the definitive ‘Woman and Child’ set of 1996 (Yvert 1012/7; Michel I-VIII, inserted between nos. 1473 and 1474; Scott 1115/20; not in SG).

It was withdrawn soon after issue due to looting of stocks. In an attempt to render the stolen supplies invalid, the issue was redrawn and overprinted with the word ‘Légal’ (Yv. 1076AL/AR; Mi. 1558-66; Sc 1145-50) or, more rarely, ‘Autorisé’ (Mi 1512/4; not in Yvert nor Scott). Looted stocks nevertheless reappeared with fake overprints, turning them into highly collectable postal forgeries. One faked overprint appears on a basic stamp itself scarce, the 205F in a changed colour (turquoise, Figure 8) whose existence is currently only recognised by Michel (no. VIII).



Figure 8
1996 205f definitive in new colour (turquoise, not grey-brown) with faked overprint ‘LÉGAL’.

4 . Reference 3: Congo (Brazzaville) – The ‘Woman and Child’ Definitives of 1996-8. Round, M. Journal of the France & Colonies PS (GB), March 2004, N° 231.



Figure 6
Issues from all four AEF countries, used on same cover

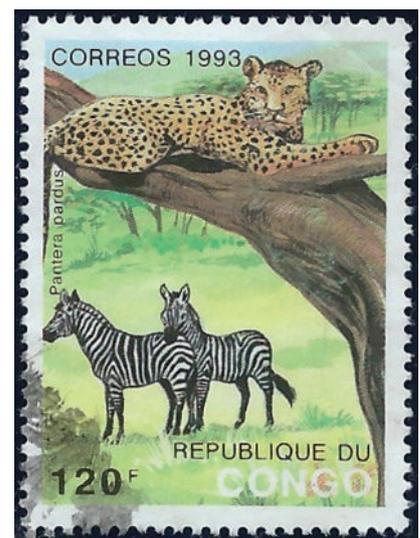


Figure 7
1993 ‘Agency’ thematic (enlarged), wrongly inscribed ‘Pantera’ for ‘Panthera’ and further inscribed ‘Correos’ for ‘Postes’



Barbara Priddy and David Chalcraft focus on items of particular interest in Michael Round's display



Michael closed his display with further small-format definitives used on more recent mail – and to parallel the apparent “cheat” item which opened the 150-year period (the Libreville cover from 1863) ended with a cover postmarked in error ‘2021’. This was franked, for good measure, with a Congo commemorative (Yvert 1079; Mi. 1653) commemorating another 150th anniversary, that of the first stamp of metropolitan France!

The display was very enthusiastically received and our President, Chris Hitchen, thanked Michael on behalf of those present for an immensely entertaining and erudite presentation.

After an excellent lunch, members reassembled for the afternoon session, the first display of which was a presentation of the 30c *Blason de Paris* given by **Mick Bister**.

Mick showed a photocopy of the original artwork by Robert Louis on which the designer had written the instructions for the stamp to be printed in three colours – red, blue and yellow. However, the PTT was unable to oblige as the anticipated booklets could only be printed on two cylinder presses and hence only in red and blue. Printing took place in September 1963 but was suspended for a year due to the postponement of the new 30c letter rate for which it was intended. Eventually it was issued in 1965, the same year in which Robert Louis died. Mick showed examples of sheet and booklet printings, positional flaws and printing errors, postal usage and an example of a private booklet of six *porte-timbres* sporting the 30c *Blason de Paris* offered by the Paris stamp dealer Georges Monteaux to his clients in 1965.

Richard Broadhurst followed with examples of the 2014 *Salon du Timbre bloc* of the 1,00€ *Cérès* issue, the 2019 170th Anniversary *bloc* of the 20 x 0,80€ *Cérès* issue and the complete *coffret* and contents which was available at the 2019 *Salon du Printemps*. A full description is to be found on pages 85-86.

Barbara Priddy continued with the *Compagnie Générale Transsaharienne* which was originally formed in 1923 with the aim of transporting mail, freight and passengers across

the Sahara by automobile. However in 1934 it got delusions of grandeur, acquired a couple of planes and a couple of pilots, and went into the aviation business. Their most ambitious flights went from Algiers or Oran to Cotonou at the beginning of 1935. Unfortunately this was precisely at the time that the French and the Belgians were starting up the trans-saharan route to the Congos, and most of CGT's route, from Niamey north, was soon taken over by the big boys of *Air Afrique* and *Sabena* and the company only made six *vols de reconnaissance* and a dozen scheduled flights. Eventually the last remaining bit of their route, Niamey-Cotonou, was taken over by *Aéromaritime*, and that was the end of CGT's venture into airmail. But the automobile service still carried on.

Next, **Roger Niven** showed covers and stamps tracing Napoléon III's influence and power during his reign ‘from Empire to ignominy’ We saw examples of the different Napoléon stamp issues, examples of mail showing his support for the development of railways, the return of Nice to France and the expansion of trade. We saw too *ballons montés* and material relating to his relationship with Queen Victoria in the period prior to his abdication. Finally, a display of modern French stamps depicted branches of the sciences, arts, industry, transport and literature which were the legacy of Louis-Napoléon's focus on intellectual drive.

Finally, **Chris Hitchen** gave a display of Paris railway post office cancellations. He related how the PTT's intention was to open an office in every station but unfortunately not all the buildings were big enough. Hence, there was the creation of the *bureau-annexe* but it was not open to the public. Chris displayed a range of station and *ambulant* marks explaining how to identify the day service (octagonal) from the night service (circular). Most of the material was from the 19th century but two notable pieces were from 1911, letters recovered from a railway accident at Melun and struck ‘*ACCIDENT DE SERVICE*’, one in violet and one in black.

Members present: Maurice Alder, Mick Bister, Richard Broadhurst, David Chalcraft, Chris Hitchen, Roger Niven, Barbara Priddy, Michael Round and Robert Campbell (guest).



Roger Niven (left) and Chris Hitchen



MR/MLB

WESSEX GROUP MEETING OF 6 JULY 2019

Ashley Lawrence: The French Mandates of Syria and Lebanon

A beautiful sunny day greeted the six members and two guests attending.

Peter Kelly started the meeting with reference to Alan Wood (whose funeral many had attended the previous day) by asking members to stand and reflect on his life and influence on the Society. It was Alan and Peter who started the F&CPS Wessex Region meetings with the inaugural meeting on 27 August 2004. We all raised a glass of champagne to remember Alan.

Ashley Lawrence, the invited speaker, gave a comprehensive display entitled 'The French Mandates of Syria and Lebanon, 1923-1944'. He explained the circumstances in which the Mandates were awarded to France by the League of Nations in the aftermath of the Great War. His display showed how the stamps of France, overprinted during the period of the Mandates, reflected the complex political situation which followed the Allied victory over the Central

Powers and the Ottoman Turks, and the boundary and currency changes in the Levant as military occupation gave way to civilian government. France was empowered to act as trustee until the mandated territories were able to self-determine their future, and achieve independence. ”

Lunch was taken as usual at the Old Mill at Harnham and on return to the Scout Hut the following displays were presented:

Ingrid Swinburn: French mail after the Liberation in 1944

Chris Hitchen: Railway Stations in Paris

Peter Kelly: Personal thematic display of *Société Générale*

Steve Ellis: French Ambulances

Colin French: French Railway Postal Cancels

It would helpful if those planning to attend the next meeting (see Society Notes) could let the convenor know by emailing colinkrfrench@gmail.com. Thank you!



Chris Hitchen, Peter Kelly and Steve Ellis "posing" whilst viewing Ashley Lawrence's display



From left to right at the Old Mill for lunch: Colin French, Peter Kelly, Ingrid Swinburn, Chris Hitchen, Ashley Lawrence, Tony Swinburn and Steve Ellis

CF

Northern Group Meeting of 23 March 2019

The following members gave displays:

John Morton: 1901 Sage, Mouchon and Merson

Alan Goude: Training stamps

Peter Rooke: Mont Blanc *département*

Trevor Smith: Haute Loire *département*

John Morton: 1830 date stamps

Peter Rooke: Postcard anniversaries

Alan Goude: Saint Pierre et Miquelon postage dues

JM

Northern Group Meeting of 13 July 2019

The Northern Group day meeting was held in Rotherham on 13 July and was attended by ten members and guests. Our usual friendly meeting was enhanced by a variety of excellent displays.

Neil Titchie: Canadian Expeditionary Force 1915-19, including Canadian Railway Troops

John Morton: WWII miscellany

Alan Goude: Colony to colony mail

Trevor Smith: Brossard box – stamps collected in a small office in Auvergne

Peter Brand: French at War! Included early campaign mail and hospital trains

Stephen Holder: Syria 1919-30

Steve Ellis: The French Ambulance

Steve Ellis: The Paris Pneumatic Post

John Morton: The lady in red: 10 centimes Sower

SRE

43rd ANNUAL PHILATELIC WEEKEND

1-3 MARCH 2019

26 members and 10 guests attended the Society's Annual Weekend at the Charlecote Pheasant Hotel near Stratford-upon-Avon.

Friday

A Committee Meeting was held in the afternoon and after dinner the proceedings were opened by **Peter Kelly** who invited members to put up their short displays.

Paul Watkins opened with Napoleonic Wars POW material including a petition from a Jersey man to Napoléon complaining about his parole conditions. **John Parmenter** showed us an item about which he was searching for information, namely a 1945 registered label from Madagascar to France which had probably been attached to a rice or coffee sample. **André Métayer** displayed various items from the period 1869-71 including two private telegram forms, one to a *poste restante* address and another registered. **Steve Ellis** offered a short display explaining the work of the Women's Emergency Canteens during World War I and in particular the Women's Emergency Corps (known as *les Dames Anglaises*) at the canteen at the Gare du Nord in Paris, where special cachets were used on mail. **Peter Stockton** described the railway mail service which operated in WWI between Cherbourg and Taranto in Italy showing mail from the stopping places *en route*. **Godfrey Bowden** enthralled us with items from a family archive which related an uncle's experiences in WWII when serving in the French Army. After capture by the Germans he escaped to Lyon from where we saw examples of his mail to England via Lisbon or the USA. **Colin Pease** displayed a detailed study of the 20c Napoléon with progressive stages of the 'F' for 'E' flaw in POSTES on singles and on covers. **Ashley Lawrence** followed with a small archive of Pastré Frères covers from the Levant to Marseille. He related the story of Lily Pastré who gave refuge to Jews and intellectuals in her château during WWII. **John Alison** showed a variety of items including an unusual cover displaying the 'Normandie' issue and addressed to the 'King of England, Buckingham Palace'. Finally **Héloïse Mitchell** sought information about a range of St Pierre et Miquelon issues and other items. The proposed President LeBrun and George VI joint issue designed by Edmond Dulac created interest and much discussion.

Saturday

Saturday morning began with the Annual General Meeting and the *vin d'honneur* celebrating the Society's 70th anniversary of which full reports were published in the April Journal. Then followed the traditional programme of displays with **Peter Stockton** opening the first session with his collection of 'Madagascar Uprising 1947'.

The display presented various aspects of the postal history of the Madagascar Uprising of 1947. On the night of 29-30 March 1947 violence broke out with rebels attacking military barracks and police posts. The rebellion spread and French troops were sent to quell the uprising. Three



Peter Stockton

military postal bureaux were opened for the expeditionary corps, BPM 5 at Tananarive with annexes BPM 5A at Fianarantsoa and BPM 5B at Tamatave, although most mail was struck with the cachet of 'POSTE AUX ARMEES T.O.E.' (*Théâtre d'Opérations Extérieur*). Other categories of mail displayed included incoming mail, overseas and foreign destinations, French Foreign Legion mail, leaflets dropped by aeroplane, mail from the Medical Services and a section of mail with *Vaguemestre* administrative cachets. The guerrilla war effectively ended on 16 November 1948 when the then leader of the rebels, Philippe Lehoaha, surrendered to representatives of the 4th Battalion of the Foreign Legion although unrest continued in many areas for several years.

After a period for members to enjoy viewing and the partaking of refreshments, **Peter Kelly** gave us his display of 'Island in the storm; Réunion in World War II'. Although Réunion was never directly involved in the theatre of war, it suffered badly from it and the situation of the island at the end of the war was so desperate that this contributed largely to its loss of colonial status in 1947. A substantial number volunteered at the outset of the war but never got any further than Madagascar. Letters were postally controlled. The Governor and local Administration more or less forced the island to side with Vichy and mail started to be censored either in Réunion or Madagascar. Airmail



Peter Kelly

services from Madagascar were suspended and maritime shipping became the target of commerce raiders and warships out of Germany and later Japan. Submarines also made their appearance and wreaked havoc amongst merchant shipping. French mailboats no longer called at the island or Madagascar and the last convoys out of Madagascar with Réunion mails were halted by the British and South Africans. The blockade was intense and the island was literally starving to death by the time the Free French and British, having established a base at Diego Suarez, sent a warship, the *Léopard*, to liberate the island and then to bring some welcome food. The Governor and Vichy were replaced, but the blockade continued until the Japanese surrender. The display shows mail sent out during this sad period in the island's life.

David Trapnell showed us items from his study of the 'Red Cross Postal Message scheme in World War II, France and Colonies'. By international mutual understanding, in World War II civilian internees under the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention were given the same rights as POWs. Thus it was possible to correspond with POWs and civilian internees held in enemy territories free of charge. But it was not possible to communicate with family members who, neither prisoner nor internee, happened at the outbreak of war to be trapped in enemy territory. So the Postal Message Scheme was an initiative established by the British Red Cross Society to assist civilians who had no means by which they could communicate with family or friends in belligerent countries. This scheme was later developed in France and we were shown a range of message familial forms, envelopes and cachets and other Red Cross material from France and the African colonies.



David Trapnell

Paul Watkins then stepped up with his 'Mail between the Channel Islands and France, 1802-1910'. The display showed examples of the handling, routing and charging of letters sent directly between the Islands and the mainland of Northern France, avoiding the official routing through London, to save both time and postage. This developed from the use of forwarding agents, through semi-official handling by the *Administration des Postes* to the official recognition of the system, albeit in a casual, relatively small-scale way. Examples were shown of the various French entry marks and their associated charges, from St. Malo, Granville and Cherbourg on pre-stamp letters – including uncommon items handled by the Guernsey (French-administered) 'Foreign Post Office'. The 1843



Paul Watkins

Agreement allowed for posting in a mobile box carried by ships travelling to France – a good variety of examples of mail showing cancellation of GB stamps or stationery on arrival, accompanied by various 'B.M.' marks were shown. Of particular interest were items of mail brought in through the small or infrequently-used ports – Binic, Carteret, Port-Bail, Plérin and St Brieuc – between the 1870s and the Great War. Mail was almost all related to Jersey or Guernsey but a pair of uncommon postcards to and from the tiny island of Sark completed the display.

After lunch, **Colin Pease** gave his display of 'Marseille Postal History up to 1900'.

Steve Ellis followed with 'Cross Channel Rail Mail'. He explained the involvement of railway companies, both English and French in the development of cross-Channel services for passengers and mail. His display contained not only items of postal history, but also related ephemera such as postcards, letters, publicity material and maps in order to make the display more appealing to those who were not necessarily postal historians or philatelists. The display included examples of the various *ambulant* cancellations which were applied to mail sent between Britain and France in both directions.

Next came **Chris Hitchen** who offered 'France to the United States 1820 to 1876'. Not until 1857 did France conclude a treaty with the United States to allow letters to be fully paid to destination. Before that mail could only be paid part way and was largely handled by British or American shipping lines. The display showed the different routes involved and the various rates charged. The French declined to renew the treaty in 1869 and once again mail relied very much on British goodwill. Though by this time there were of course direct services to the United States by American and French lines. The General Postal Union finally simplified matters when France joined in January 1876.

After a break for viewing and yet more refreshments **Mick Bister** showed us his study of the '1F50 Pétain'. The first frame was devoted to proofs, trials and regular printings including booklets and postal stationery. The next frame contained printing varieties and errors including part-perf and imperf printer's waste, recto-verso and albino printings and a complete sheet *imprimé sur raccord*. This was followed by a study of the +50c *Secours National* overprint which included colour trials, overprint trials and the test

printing of black on brown and the definitive printings in carmine on blue. The fourth frame examined propaganda issues and forgeries produced by the Resistance groups in Nice, Marseille and Paris as well as the famous British Intelligence printings. Next came a display of Liberation overprints which included a complete sheet of the Lyon overprint trial and the mayoral decree authorising the application of overprints at Montreuil-Bellay. The final frame was devoted to the single use of the 1F50 Pétain on mail and covered a variety of applications including the tolerated reduced Red Cross rate to Great Britain, the *recommandation d'office* rate on mail to Marshal Pétain and the concessionary rate to serving mariners.

David Parmley followed with a display of 'Variants and Errors on French Stamps' which comprised stamps both metropolitan and from the empire. The first part showed the use of the Cérès design from 1849 to the present day, the various aspects of the Louis Napoléon stamps and the development of the Sage, Blanc, Mouchon and Merson types including colonial applications. Each section included examples of printing flaws or errors. The second part illustrated design errors and recycled designs from later issues which were, in some cases, accompanied by similar errors from other countries so as to demonstrate that the French Empire held no monopoly on carelessness.



David Parmley

After the tea break **Ashley Lawrence** entertained us with his colourful collection of 'French Cartoons' relating to aspects of Anglo-French relations. There were two main sections.

The first comprised a series of cartoons drawn by several eminent English cartoonists relating to the Napoleonic Wars, and in particular the Emperor Napoléon's planned seaborne Invasion of Britain. The series commenced with the classic cartoon by James Gillray entitled '*The Plumb Pudding in Danger*' of 1805 which depicts the British Prime Minister William Pitt and Napoléon at table holding large carving knives, and between them carving up the globe in the form of a Christmas Pudding – one of the best-known political cartoons of all time. The era of the Napoleonic Wars is widely regarded as the Golden Age of Caricature, and Gillray's contemporaries included such other great artists as Isaac and George Cruikshank, Thomas Rowlandson and William Hogarth. Ashley paid tribute to our late member Professor Barrie Jay for having assembled this collection of the Invasion cartoons.

Ashley's display continued with series of French cartoons of scenes from the Siege of Paris of 1870-71. One drawing by Cham, the pseudonym of Amadée de Noé, was published in *Le Charivari*. Called '*La Queue pour la Viande de Rat*', it showed Parisians queuing in the gutter, taking turns to catch rats for food: others were more humorous. The series '*Paris Assiégé*' by Draner (1833-1926) was displayed in its entirety. The cartoonist Jules Renard (who reversed his surname and signed his work Draner) chronicled the misfortunes of the Franco-German War of 1870-71. Among Ashley's favourite cartoons by Draner was the Master, in the presence of his weeping wife, explaining to his dog Médor how much he appreciated the dog's self-sacrifice in permitting himself to be eaten to keep his Master and Family alive! So popular were Draner's Siege cartoons that they were later transferred to crockery of which Ashley showed examples. The other series of 24 Siege cartoons were entitled '*Paris Bloqué*' by Faustin Betbeder (1847-c.1914). These cartoons, also entitled '*Le Musée-Homme*' comprised unflattering (indeed grotesque) caricatures of Siege politicians and other personalities from both sides of the Franco-German War, some shown as little vegetables.



Ashley Lawrence

Evening

Following dinner, the evening was open to members to continue giving short displays. **Godfrey Bowden** opened with a display of folded business cards from 1927 to 1960. The cards were designed to make the typing of messages more efficient before being folded and put into the mail at concessionary rates such as invoice, printed matter etc. The display contained a range of designs, manufacturers and rates.



Godfrey Bowden

John Hammonds followed with a frame of advertising material for the *apéritif* Byrrh. We saw 'pubs' in French booklets containing *Paix* and Sower stamps as well as in the Algerian booklets of the Casbah issue. Other items included publicity cards and vehicle advertising. **Steve Ellis** provided us with a preface to his main Sunday display with illustrations of the Mont Cenis Pass and railway including carriages on horse-drawn sledges, a locomotive pulling the train along the early line and the first train going through the tunnel in 1871.

Sunday

The morning began with a return visit by **Peter Kelly** who entertained us with a display entitled 'Fun with Precursor Postcards 1873-1878'. The object of the display was to explore the development of these cards and their use from all possible angles. Initially the cards were produced by the State and were sold by the Post Office and through those licensed to do so with the postage stamps applied covering either local or territorial rates. Nothing was to be attached to the card and only the name and address of the sender were to appear on the front. At the start two separate cards were produced to reflect the two rates and a variety of frames and small differences as well as government sub-contracted cards. After a relatively short time a single card was produced to combine all different rates. Over a period the Post Office relaxed their rules allowing commercial companies to place their own details on the front of the card either by way of a rubber stamp or a small label. A further relaxation came with the possibility of the cards being privately printed providing they kept to the official format. This led to the introduction of more elaborate frames and the use of colour. The normal cards could also have details printed on the back to reflect a company's commercial requirements. These are known as '*répliqué*' cards. Further sections of the display covered the type and variety of postmarks and the stamps themselves that can be found, taxation of the cards and use by offices abroad and colonies. This included a detailed selection of cards used in Réunion.

Peter was followed by **André Métayer** who displayed 'The postal relations between England and France from 1678 to 1836'. The many wars between 1678 and 1815 disrupted the smooth transport of mail through this traditional route, prompting the search for official roundabout routes as well as unofficial back roads, such as the use of smugglers, fishing boats, individual travellers or other means. As the wars grew fiercer, an increasing number of mostly French



André Métayer

prisoners of war made it necessary to organize special routes for their mail. This included setting up censorship at their place of detention or in London (Transport Office), in the case of French POWs in Great Britain, and in Paris (*Cabinet Noir*) in the case of British POWs in France, as well as the implementation of special postal rates. Gems seen included a 1695 letter from the Nine Years' War from London to St Malo by way of Holland, a 1747 letter from a French prisoner of war held at Tavistock to Nantes via Bayonne, two 1755 letters from a French prisoner of war captured at the beginning of the Seven Years' War, a 1796 letter from an English prisoner of war detained at Nîmes with entry mark 'DOVER SHIP', a letter dated 8 June 1798 from a French prisoner of war detained on the pontoon 'PORTLAND' censored and cacheted at Porchester Castle, sent by private boat to France where it was mailed from Gravelines to Bordeaux (one of four known), letters dated 1806 and 1809 transported by private means or by smugglers, and an 1834 cover from Jamaica to Rennes via London including '*estafette*' from Calais to Paris.

After a period for members' viewing, **Steve Ellis** returned to give a second display, this time on the 'Mont Cenis Railway'. He explained the significance of the construction of the Mont Cenis railway, in operation only between June 1868 and October 1871, for the carriage of mail and passengers between France and Italy. The display was divided into three parts, namely the period before the railway was opened, the years of the railway itself, and finally the post-railway period with the opening of the new Mont Cenis (or Fréjus) tunnel (upon which work had actually begun in 1857.) The display was illustrated with items of mail carried not only between France and Italy but also from further afield – Britain and the Far East.



Steve Ellis

John Hammonds then stepped forward to display part of his collection of 'Indochina' which covered three aspects of the airmail service to and from Indochina. The first frame showed covers mainly to and from France to the Levant with the first through flight from France to Beyrouth followed by a selection of covers on the route. The second frame showed a range of directional marks used by various towns throughout Indochina. The final section showed Crash Covers with various cachets including a 1984 cover from Corbigny with a slogan postmark commemorating the crash of the '*Émeraude*' in 1934.

Hans Smith followed with material from 'Nice and Environs'. He commented that though familiar to many today as a spot



John Hammonds

for a quick few days off on the Med, Nice has a long and resplendent history – starting as a ‘county’ in the mediaeval Kingdom of Naples, the city and its magnificent harbour having been donated as a bride-price to the Habsburg Duchy of Savoy in the 14th century. Passing into French republican control in 1792, then Sardinian ownership in 1818, then back to French control in 1860, the city and its county underwent a series of postal changes from the early 18th century onwards. The display presented a sketch of this process. The local posts and communications were vastly improved under the French. The Austrians later reinstated the Sardinians who retained the French improvements and opened twelve post offices managed from the city of Nice. The system continued to function effectively with a foreign postal service and the issue in 1850 of an attractive set of adhesives. In 1860, the city and county were again donated to France, by a monumental scam, when Nice and its county were incorporated into the new *département* of Alpes Maritimes. Contrary to general expectation, the area prospered and put up effective resistance to the Italian invasion in 1942.



Hans Smith

Colin Spong closed the programme with a display of 'Madagascar - *Boîtes Mobiles*'. Colin explained that he had received from his friend Joh Groenewald a display of Madagascar *Boîte Mobile* markings for the period of WWII 1939-1945. This display was *en route* to Peter Kelly to whom Joh had forwarded it as an appreciation for Peter's help and initial researches on this subject of which little has been recorded. The various markings covered mail carried by boat, motor vehicle, bus, river craft and ships on the Comoro Islands route. Many were either added to the

cover en route or at the Head Post Office at Tananarive, Madagascar.



Colin Spong

After viewing, members returned for the closing of the meeting and to hear **Steve Ellis** announce that the Society Literature trophy for the best article in the Journals of 2018



Steve Ellis and Mick Bister (L- R)

was awarded to **Mick Bister** for his outstanding article '*The Joseph de la Nézière Pictorials of West Africa*'. The equal runners-up were **Peter Kelly** for his '*Bureaux et Recettes Auxiliaires*' and **Chris Hitchen** for his '*Le Relais Poste Urbain*'. The Judges were Messrs Derek Atkins, Michael Meadowcroft and Steve Ellis who presented Mick Bister with the award

The convenors, **Peter Kelly** and **Chris Hitchen** were thanked for the time and effort in organising the event which remains the highlight of the Society's year.

The following members attended all or part of the weekend.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| Maurice Alder | André Métayer |
| John Allison | Héloïse Mitchell |
| Len Barnes | John Parmenter |
| Mick Bister | David Parmley |
| Godfrey Bowden | Michael Passé |
| Richard Broadhurst | Gerald Small |
| Mark Brookes | Hans Smith |
| Steve Ellis | Colin Spong |
| John Hammonds | Peter Stockton |
| Chris Hitchen | David Trapnell |
| Peter Kelly | Maurice Tyler |
| Bob Larg | Paul Watkins |

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES

Compiled by Colin Spong

Bulletin de la COL.FRA

N° 167 1^{er} Trim 2019: Les stations climatiques en Indochine [suite] (Ferrien); Première liaison postale Togo-Haute-Volta [Dapango-Tenkodogo, 4 Janvier 1950] (Girardin); Madagascar, série de 1902 - encore une histoire de virgule (Richard).

Cameo

Vol 20 N° 1 Whole N° 106 January 2019: Analysis of the Six Requisitions making up the London Overprints of Togo Imperium Values [Anglo-France Occupation issue] (Jackson); Togo postal staff 1916 (Mayne); British West Africa and the French Airmail Services Part 1: The Toulouse-Dakar service (Priddy); Lomé, Togo provisional registration label (Mayne); Camroun: revenue stamp with 017 caption (Lebourcq).

Vol 20 N° 2 Whole N° 107 June. 2019: British West Africa and the French Airmails Services Part 1: The Toulouse-Dakar service (Priddy).

The Collectors Club Philatelist

Vol 98 N° 3 May-June 2019: The French Pacific Colonies [display to CC] (Grabowski).

Documents Philatéliques

No 240 2^e Trim 15 April 2019: La poste militaire française et le courrier civil dans les Balkans à la fin de la Première Guerre mondiale (Bourguignat); Les emblèmes et symboles du Second Empire en philatélie fiscale (Vincent); Histoire des bureaux de poste français en Crète [1897-1914].

L'Écho de la Timbrologie

Permanent features: Actualités, Nouveautés, Prêt-à-poster Florilège de PÂP, Variétés, Surcharges, Cartes postales, Comment ça marche?, Flamme, Livres, Maximaphilie, Thématique.

N° 1937 Mar 2019: Une Grande Dame de la Philatélie au Palais-Royal [Danièle Dutertre] (-); Le Type Groupe d'Oudiné (Danan); Le 1,25F olive type Paix de Laurens (Lavigne); L'OP2-2018 [2/2] (Venturini); Faux et truqués du 10c Empire lauré surchargé non-émis (Béchin); Le 1,25F rose type Paix de Laurens (Lavigne); Terre Adélie: hivernage 2016 (Venturini).

N° 1939 May 2019: La mutinerie du 17^e Régiment d'infanterie (Delmotte); La taxation des lettres territoriales en France du 1^{er} janvier 1828 au 31 décembre 1848 (Lavigne); Hivernage 2016 en Terre Adélie (Venturini).

N° 1940 June 2019: Courriers extraordinaires de l'Hérault (-); La taxation des lettres territoriales en France du 1^{er} janvier 1828 au 1^{er} décembre 1848 [1] (Lavigne); Hivernage 2016 en Terre Adélie (Venturini).

N° 1941 Jul-Aug 2019: La taxation des lettres territoriales en France du 1^{er} janvier 1828 au 1^{er} décembre 1848 [2] (Lavigne); Retour du CPF au Palais du Luxembourg: présentation des archives (-); Les récépissés de chemins de fer (Danan); Campagne d'été 2016-2017 en Terre Adélie (Venturini).

France & Colonies Philatelist

Whole N° 336 (Vol 75 N° 2) April 2019: 1952 Set of 2 stamps for the XIX International Geological Congress Algiers, Algeria (Taylor); French Sinking Fund Stamps Paid Down War Debt (Rosenblum); St Pierre-Miquelon 1914 Group Type franking on a heavy parcel wrapper (Taylor).

Gibbons Stamp Monthly

Vol 49 N° 12 May 2019: The Mali Federation (Round).

The Indo-China Philatelist

Vol XLIX N° 3 (Whole N° 238) May 2019: Postwar use of French State Postage Due (Bentley); Postal Rates of North Viet-Nam (Gebhardt); Dual franked cover from Army Post Office in Hanoi, 1946 (Aspnes, Goanvic & Düering); Viet-Nam's 1955 Airmail Stamp (Dykhouse); More on Unusual Military Letter of 1940 (Pezet); Arthur Walthausen's Business (Bentley); Overprint Variety on Indochina Number 1 (Bentley).

The London Philatelist

Vol 128 N° 1466 June 2019: Discovery of the Earliest Mailing of British Inland Mail from Madagascar to Natal (Klugman).

Timbres Magazine

Permanent features: Actualités, Courrier des lecteurs, Club des clubs, Manifestations, Marcophilie, Les Nouveautés de France, Actus Andorre, Monaco et les TOM, Pâp, Expertise, Les variétés, Le Journal des nouveautés, Bibliothèque, Mon marché du mois.

N° 209 Mar 2019: Quand l'atelier du timbre se modernise - Le Port de la Rochelle (Singeot); Quand le 25 centimes Sage s'embarque...pour le Japon (Veglio); Le premier timbre français passe du noir au bleu (Gomez); Quelques trottoirs de timbres (de La Mettrie); La taxation des réfugiés (Danan); Le familistère de Guise [2] (Zeyons).

N° 210 Apr 2019: Le monde magique de Thierry Mordant (Louviau); Quelques pièces philatéliques remarquables du Languedoc-Roussillon (-); De France vers la Savoie (de La Mettrie); Les 130 ans de la Tour Eiffel (Zeyons); La frappe «SPECIMEN» sur les classiques de Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon (Tillard).

N° 211 May 2019: Henri Guillaumet et la Cordillère des Andes (Sinais); Les derniers réglages de la taille-douce L'Arc de Triomphe (Singeot); De la poste ferroviaire de l'Hérault (Souilé); De belles pièces en Liberté (Bernadet); Les entiers postaux dans les cours d'instruction (Gomez); Timbres à date type 22 sur des chiffres-taxe (de La Mettrie); Répertoire des Daguin des bureaux français -1. Le département de l'Ain, 2. Le département de l'Aisne (Hervé); Le complément de taxe (Prugnon).

Continued on page iii

BOOKSHELF

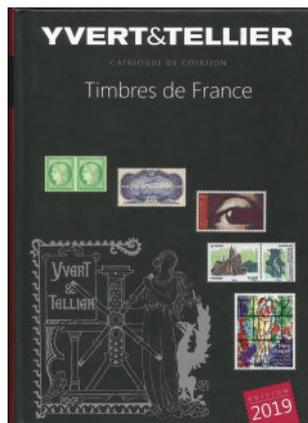
Compiled by Michael Round

A listing in this column does not preclude the possibility of a full review later.

Yvert & Tellier Catalogue 'Timbres De France', Tome 1, 2019

Reviewed by Richard Broadhurst

Yvert & Tellier 2019 – Timbres de France Tome 1, 1324pp, 150x215mm format, in French, illustrated in colour. Published by Editions Yvert & Tellier, 2 rue de l'Etoile, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3, France. Price 23,90€ plus carriage.



The 2019 edition published in September 2018 contains 1324 pages, an additional sixty from the previous year. It lists stamps up to the Ryder Cup issue of July 2018. This year modern collectors have been rewarded with some very substantial increases of around 25-40% for the large majority of mint stamps, especially commemoratives from the year 2000 onwards. Art stamps, which this year have their own section in the

Musée Imaginaire, have fared even better with rises up to 60%. In light of the drastic price reductions to GB stamps by SG in recent catalogues with many QEII sets reduced by up to 40%, it is encouraging to see such a healthy market in the stamps of France.

New sections continue to appear in the back-of-the-book material. In addition to the *Musée Imaginaire* there are sections on *Timbres Socio-Postaux*, *Bureaux d'Algérie*, *Souvenir Blocs du Carré Marigny* and *Vignettes du Code Postal*. As I have mentioned before the one addition that resolutely fails to appear is a section on *Publicitimbres* (booklet pubs). This only appeared once in the catalogue in 2006 and has never been reprieved. Considering the interest in these very popular stamps it continues to be a mystery why the editor has not seen fit to reinstate them especially as there is such an excellent section in the Spink/Maury catalogue.

Looking at the price changes in more detail, most Classic issues in mint condition see increases with 1F carmine *Cérès* (Y&T 6); 10c *bistre-jaune Répub Franc* (Y&T 9); 25c blue (Y&T 15) and 40c orange *Empire Franc* (Y&T 16) each benefiting from a huge 1000€ increase. A number of *Type Sage* mint stamps also rise in price, the used prices being untouched.

There are no alterations of any note in the semi-modern period with the exception of the 1943 Pétain set of 5 u/m (Y&T 576-580) up by 10€ to 110€. All the Celebrities sets from 1943 to 1960 for some inexplicable reason are reduced in price by a couple of euros.

Blocs (miniature sheets) make up a very popular area of collecting, nearly all of which see price increases. *Blocs*

souvenirs, which have remained in the doldrums for some years have recently become very popular with increases of 100% not uncommon. The first issue (BS 1) 2003 *Rouge-gorge* which has been the subject of much speculation over the years decreases by 10€ to 90€, still not a bad return on its 3€ face value! Two *blocs souvenirs* issued in 2017: *Normandie-Niemen* (BS139) and *Bataille de Verdun* (BS141) contain unique features. The identical sheet stamp is reproduced on the *bloc* together with a *se-tenant* pair in progressive colour overlay. These pairs are also listed in the main stamp section of the catalogue. The sheet stamps were issued in quantities of 1.5 million and 800,000 respectively but there are only 30,000 copies of the pairs. These were probably overlooked by many collectors and are definitely destined for greater things than the current 25€ price tag.

Many *blocs* are issued in very small quantities of which recent examples are the Euro 2016 (BF137) which shows a massive increase from 30€ to 100€ and the 2017 Hello Maestro! (BF139) with a face value of only 7.30€ but which catalogues at 70€. Only 30,000 copies of the latter were issued compared with 265,000 of BF137 so this is definitely one to keep an eye on. In my review of the 2018 catalogue I tipped the 2012 *bloc Le retable d'Issenheim* (F4675), face value 5€, as being one to watch; this has indeed turned out to be a good investment once again showing an increase from 35€ to 48€.

There are however a number of anomalies in this area with some odd tinkering of prices that seem to make very little sense. For example the very attractive 2011 Lace set of four miniature sheets (F4600-3) reduces from 28€ to 24€ used whilst the mint price remains the same. The reasoning behind this is a mystery as this set is one of the most difficult to obtain in fine used condition.

There are price rises for all the *albums à composition variable* from the *Semeuse de Roty* (Carnet 1511) to *Sabine de Gandon* 40th Anniv (Carnet 1523). These are very popular with collectors; certain individual stamps from the *albums* are unique and consequently available in only very small quantities.

Whilst on the subject of quantities issued, there is much information of interest in the catalogue. For example it was not uncommon in the 1960/1970s for commemoratives to be issued in quantities of up to ten million; currently this figure is between ten or twenty times lower reflecting the drastic reduction in postal usage.

An example of supply and demand is evident in the recent 2013-2018 overprinted *Marianne et la Jeunesse* pair (Y&T 5234/5) in *coins datés* blocks of four which are listed for the first time at 82€ with a face value of less than 4€!

Something we have not seen before was a communication by Yvert & Tellier in the November issue of *L'Echo de la Timbrologie* (also published by Y&T) where a number of price corrections (all upward) were listed for the 2019 catalogue. Amongst them were these *blocs*: 1949 Citex (BF5) up 100€ to 1000€; 1950 Air - *Vue de Paris* 1000F sheet of 10 also up 100€ to 1,900€ and 2018 Ryder Cup (BF142) with an increase of 200% to 45€.

Other areas of interest noted are the end of the series *Feuillets-Souvenir Yvert & Tellier* which were offered free

of charge with each catalogue and ran from 2008 to 2018. There is a small dedicated section with details of all issues up to 2014 but these remain unpriced. There is no mention of extending this section beyond 2014 but this is probably due to the sheer volume of these items being issued currently. There is an updated section on *Timbres de Distributeurs* with much additional information and illustrations of all recent commemorative types.

Without doubt this remains the premier catalogue of France worldwide. It is a beautiful publication and very easy to use with good quality lay flat pages. It is an absolute must for collectors as so much new information is included each year especially for the modern collector. It is astonishing how much work must go into updating this catalogue annually. Highly recommended!

Books Noted

Les postes aux Armées de la Guerre franco-allemande de 1870-71, by Steven C. Walske. L'Académie de Philatélie

Hardback, pp368, A4 format. Price 65€ plus postage (7€ within France).

Details direct from the Académie (email: academie.philatelie@gmail.com) or from Robert Abensur, 8 rue des Fossés, 54700 Pont-à-Mousson.

This stupendous volume must take pride of place among anyone's shopping list. With the aid of letters (of course) and other documents, it tells the history of this short but notorious period of history: its battles, sieges, *ballons montés*, the *Commune*, and particularly the military post. It will satisfy and enthrall historians and advanced postal historians alike.

Le Rekkas N° 101, Journal of the *Association Philatélique SPLM (Maroc et Tunisie)*, 206 boulevard Péreire, 75017 Paris, France.

The *Association Philatélique SPLM* was founded in 1993. I mentioned its publication *Le raid du Petit Journal au Maroc en 1911 – Philatélie et Aviation* by Hélène Guillaume, in this Journal for February 2016. The celebratory 25th anniversary 100th issue of its journal *Le Rekkas* (named after a diamond-shaped cancellation of dots) was something of a special number. This 101st issue shows no slackening of enthusiasm. It spreads to 40 pages, rather than the usual 24, entirely in colour and on high-quality paper. Notable among the articles is one on the French PO in Tangier in 1893.

Algeria collectors feeling sidelined, or collectors of francophone North Africa in general, may also like to know of the free on-line French-language quarterly magazine *Le Maghrebophila*. Its 26 substantial issues so far are all still available. Contact khalid.benziane@orange.fr to get on the mailing list.

Timbres de tous les jours, Jean Jacques Rabineau.

Details from jjrabineau@aol.com

This review of *Marianne* issues since 1967 appears three times a year. Issue N° 46 (the first of 2019) is all in colour, and deals with the latest *Marianne*, officially known as *Marianne de Digan*, or – to most of us – *Marianne l'engagée*. Some varieties of this are already very scarce, particularly on cover.

Le petit Yvert, edition 2019

Softback, pp592, format 125x185mm. Price 13,90€, plus postage.

From Editions Yvert et Tellier, 2 rue de l'Étoile, CS 79015, 80094 Amiens Cedex 3, or usual agents.

Those of us daunted by the technical detail offered by catalogues like the "Big" Yvert, or those of us acutely short of shelf-space, or who travel light (whether to stamp fairs or on holiday) may like to consider this simple and smaller alternative. It bears a similar relationship to the "Big" Yvert as SG's *Collect British Stamps* does to the SG Specialised, or even the *GB Concise*. Its list falls under the usual Yvert headings: postage, airmail, Red Cross booklets, postage due, miniature sheets and self-adhesives, containing them – and around 10,000 colour illustrations – in less than half the 'Big' Yvert's page-count.

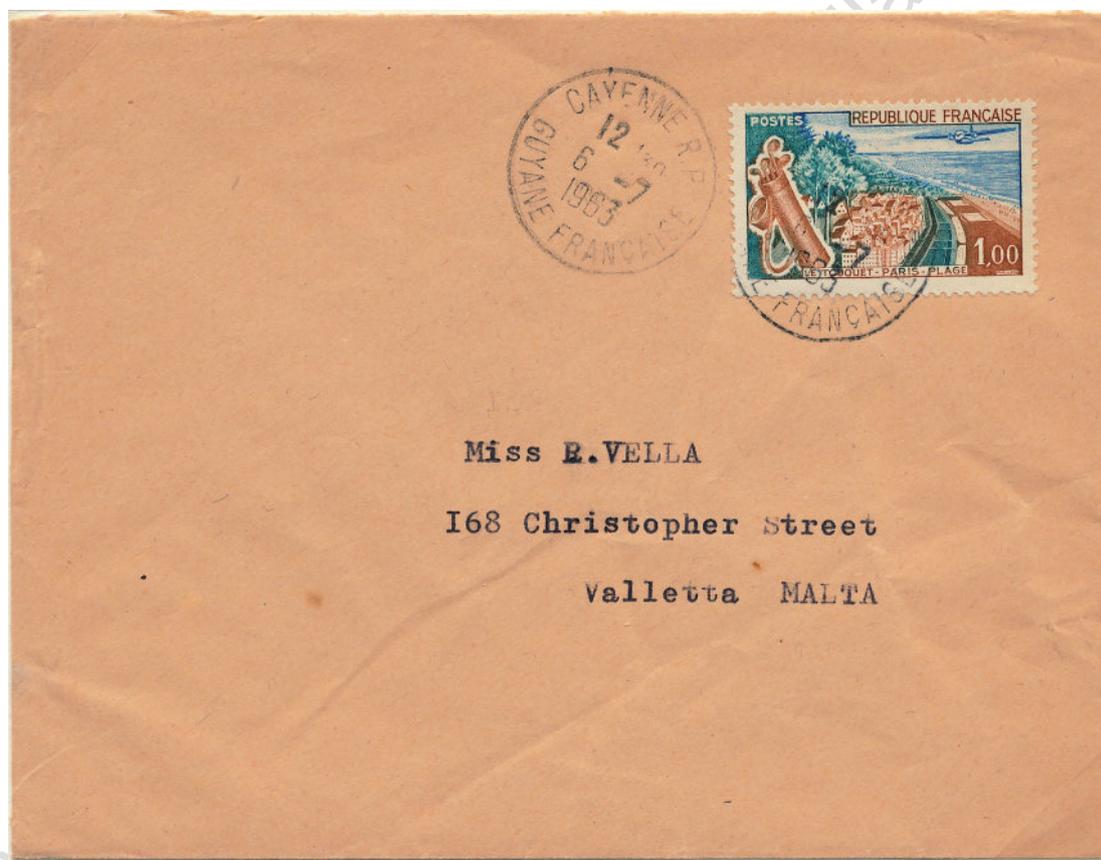
I must plead for patience from members who collect French African colonies: in previous Journals I've mentioned the new Yvert and Michel catalogues covering the area - but reviewing these four volumes as carefully as they deserve, although hugely rewarding, is a long and time-consuming job. I hope to have some results next time.

Michael Round

LIST OF RECENTLY PUBLISHED ARTICLES
Continued from page 102*Timbres Magazine*

N° 212 June 2019: Notre-Dame de Paris une histoire philatélique loin d'être achevée (Toulemonde); «Solar Stratos» un défi solitaire et des plis historiques (Toulemonde); Les premiers timbres algériens une émission qui s'est fait désirer (Singeot); Les jours complémentaires (de La Mettrie); Une trace de la présence française en Chine: l'orphelinat de T'ou-Sè-Wè (Soulié); Les timbres français de quittances (Danan); Notre pain quotidien (Zeyons); Répertoire des Daguin des bureaux français - 3. L'Allier (Hervé).

N° 213 Jul-Aug 2019: Histoire d'une gare: Sélestat (Zimmermann); Les coulisses de création du document philatélique officiel (Nowacka); La Fête des Vignerons: une belle thématique sur la vigne et le vin (Emmenegger); Sur la route des vacances: Les séries touristiques de 1954 et 1955 (Singeot); A l'usager mécontent la Poste répond courtoisement (de La Mettrie); Les timbres fictifs: quelle(s) histoire(s) (Gomez); Notre-Dame: les cartes postales (Zeyons); Répertoire des Daguin des bureaux français - 4. Les Alpes de Haute Provence (Hervé).

SHORTER ITEMS**Continued from page 91****Mystery of the 1F Le Touquet airmail rate**

The cover illustrated bears the 1F Le Touquet (Y&T 1355) issued in 1962 and was sent from Cayenne in French Guyana on 6 July 1963 to Valetta in Malta where it arrived six days later on 12 July (as confirmed by a faint but legible backstamp). Although neither an airmail label nor a manuscript *par avion* is present the dates would confirm that this is the means by which the letter was transported.

At the time the basic foreign letter rate for up to 20 grams (1.1.60-17.1.65) was 50c and the European interior airmail fee (applicable here for the second leg from Paris

to Valetta) was 20c. If these were the rates applied at the Cayenne office the item is overfranked by 30c. On the other hand, if the letter had weighed over 20 grams the postage would have been 80c and the air fee 40c resulting in the item being underpaid by 20c. Either way, the rates do not reconcile with the 1 franc franking.

Is it possible that there existed a specific airmail fee, applied at an office geographically outside Europe (although French Guyana was not politically so being a *département d'outre-mer*) for mail between a DOM and destinations in Europe?

Mick Bister

F&CPS PHILATELIC WEEKEND AT CHARLECOTE 2019

Scrapbook



Convening



Preparing



Browsing



Relaxing



Viewing



Waiting